

VILLAGE AMENITIES COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting of the Village Amenities Committee of Colwall Parish Council held on Wednesday 2nd April 2014 at 7.30pm in the Jean Simon Room, Colwall Village Hall.

Present:

Councillors: Beard (Chairman), Carless, Mills, Rees, Milne, Turner, Co-opted members David Fisher, Freda Ballard, Derek Rees, Chris Englefield and the Clerk.

1. Welcome and Apologies.

The Chairman Councillor Beard welcomed those present. No apologies were received.

2. Declaration of Interests.

None were declared.

3. Minutes.

The minutes of Village Amenities Committee held on Wednesday 4th December 2013 were approved and signed by the Chairman.

4. Amenities Budget.

i) A summary of the 2013/14 Amenities Committee's year to date accounts was circulated for the meeting; Councillors Mills confirmed expenditure is below budget at the year-end predominately due to under-spend in the Nature Reserve which needs to be carried forward to 2014/15.

ii) Quotation from Grange Farm Nursery had been obtained by Councillor Rees for the planting of a new flower bed in the new garden at Walwyn Meadow; the quote was for a sum of up to £600. Top Soil will be required in addition to the planting. The village maintenance contractor will also need to hire equipment for the removal of the concrete plinth in front of Aunt Alice.

IT WAS RESOLVED that up to £1,000 of the village amenities budget be allocated for the works detailed above (of which £600 max for the planting).

5. Sites Overview.

- i. Orlin Road Play Area (CE) – Reported to be in good condition
- ii. War Memorial Gardens (GR) – Councillor Rees reported the 21 Roses have been planted with fresh soil and this has filled three of the five rose beds. However, they have become damaged by rabbits.

Poppy seeds will need planting in troughs due to the rabbits. Councillor Rees to obtain a quote for up to 4 troughs; this will be referred to Full Council due to the timescale.

- iii. Allens Meadow (Clerk) – Reported to be in good condition
- iv. Walwyn Meadow and Library Building (JB/GR) – Reported to be in good condition.
- v. Colwall Green (GR/DF) – Councillor Rees reported back that the wooden railings on the approach to the over bridge are to be repaired by the Conservators.

The ditch which affects Elm Drive is to be referred to the Conservators for clearance.

Rabbits have again burrowed under the new trees planted by the Conservators.

Councillor Rees to refer these 3 matters to the Conservators Land Management committee.

- vi. Brookmill Play Area (JB) - Reported to be in good condition.
- vii. Aunt Alice – (GR/JB) Reported to be in good condition. Time keeping is monitored by D Rees and G Fleetwood and adjusted accordingly.
- viii. Railway Gardens (MM) – Reported to be in good condition.
- ix. Nature Reserve - (GR) A terrapin has been reported in the small pond, the clerk has referred this to Nigel Hand – Ecologist, based at Hereford Nature Trust, who will attempt to deal with the removal thereof.

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Consideration needs to be given to the sluice gate and the silting up of the main pond.

Malvern Hills AONB may be able to assist with the management of the pond(s).

Clerk to seek out former Management Plan for the Nature Reserve, C Englefield has offered to review.

6. Parish Notice Boards, Village Seats and Litter Bins.

All Parish notice boards were reported to be in good order.

Village Seats and Litter Bins – all bins are in good condition and all seats were reported to be in good condition with the exception of the “round” seat on Colwall Green which needs repairing. The Clerk will ask S Maund to repair and tidy up the surrounding area.

7. Footpaths

Derek Rees, the footpath officer reported the following:-

- No liaison necessary with Herefordshire Council/Highways.
- Footpaths walked: those local to Colwall Stone, due to inclement weather.

8. Correspondence

i) Report of terrapin (see 5 (ix)) above.

ii) Balfour Beatty – advice Non -Confirmation of Public Path Extinguishment Order re CW24A (Part) Colwall. The Secretary of State declined to confirm the order due to objections received. Details are available on www.planning-inspectorate.gov.uk ref FPS/W1850/3/6. Therefore, the existing line of the path remains as the legal line.

8. Date of next meeting and frequency of meetings.

The next meeting of the Village Amenities Committee will be held on Wednesday 4th June 2014, in the Jean Simon Room at Colwall Village Hall.

The meeting closed at 8.05 p.m.

Chairman..... Date.....