

VILLAGE AMENITIES COMMITTEE

**Minutes of the meeting of the Village Amenities Committee of Colwall Parish Council
held on Wednesday 3rd February 2016 at 7.30pm in the Jean Simon Room, Colwall
Village Hall.**

Present:

Councillors: Beard (Chairman), Butler, Kendrick, Mills, Rees.

Co-opted members: David Fisher, Freda Ballard and the Clerk.

P Butler and D Fisher joined the meeting during item number 3.

1. Welcome and Apologies.

The Chairman Councillor Beard welcomed those present.

Apologies were received and accepted from Councillor Carless and co-opted member C Englefield.

2. Declaration of Interests.

None were declared.

3. Minutes.

The minutes of Village Amenities Committee held on Wednesday 2nd December 2015 were approved and signed by the Chairman.

4. Progress Reports

i) Wild Flowers Verges in Colwall

Councillor Rees reported

- Wildflower mats (turf) can be purchased for approx £10 plus delivery, Sized 22cm x 250 cm (9 inches x 8 ft).
- These are delivered in rolls stacked on a pallet and are to be unrolled and used within 8 hrs of delivery.
- Various wild flower mixes are available.
- They are to be planted early May – June for flowering in July/Aug/Sept/Oct to a height of 25cm – 90cm (10 inches – 36 inches).
- The ground needs specific preparation, including the clearance of the area and rotovation or digging to a depth of at least 6 inches.
- The wild flower mixes will not flower in the same density the following year so it will be an annual or bi-annual planting scheme if adopted by the Parish Council.

IT WAS AGREED that the verge from Colwall Green bus shelter (on the approach into the village) to the first property on the left hand side would be considered for a wild flower verge. The Clerk will liaise with S Maund re measuring the area and request S Maund liaises with Councillor Rees about the project so that it can be costed for the April meeting.

The Clerk will ask S Maund to ascertain the cost of hiring a rotovator.

Councillor Kendrick to ascertain if a voluntary service could be an option for undertaking the ground preparation works and installing the wild flower turf.

Councillor Rees reported that the costs for “planting troughs” by the Bus Shelter at Colwall Green and The Brookhill Road/Old Church Road Triangle are £80 each plus delivery.

Councillor Kendrick volunteered to ascertain if a cheaper alternative can be sourced.

IT WAS AGREED this would be reviewed at the April meeting with the benefit of a possible alternative quote via Councillor Kendrick.

ii) Nature Reserve Interpretation Board

The Clerk reported that the funds had been received.

2 quotes have been obtained from specialists for Interpretation Boards of this nature following recommendations from the Malvern Hills AONB and the Malvern Hills Conservators (and a possible further quote is enroute).

IT WAS RESOLVED that the Clerk place an order as per the quotations received (See item 5(ii) below).

iii) S106 Monies – Covent Garden and Land Adjoining Brookmill Close.

The clerk confirmed there is £37,468.54 Index-Linked of unspent S106 monies from the Covent Garden Development for Play Contribution/Open Space and

A further £13,314.00 Index-linked of S106 monies from the land adjoining Brookmill Close Development for Play Contribution/Open Space.

There is a time limit for the Covent Garden monies to be committed or spent, which is Jan 2017.

IT WAS RESOLVED that a working party consisting of Councillors Butler, Beard, Kenrick and co-opted member Englefield will commence plans for utilisation of these funds.

Up to 50% can be recognised as maintenance on any new equipment installed - This includes the S106 monies utilised to date on the Orlin Road Play Area.

The Working Party will liaise with the Clerk regarding potential Designers and Suppliers of play equipment, and report back to the committee at the April meeting

5. Amenities Budget.

i) A summary of the 2015/16 Amenities Committee's year to date accounts was circulated. Councillors Mills confirmed expenditure is in line with Budget with the exception of the Nature Reserve the costs of which were approved in the 2014/15 financial year but not invoiced until the 2015/16 financial year therefore a timing difference only and the Orlin Road play area repairs, for which the spend had been approved from the Pay Equipment Reserves.

ii) IT WAS RESOLVED that a budget of up to £100 over and above the £1000 donation received can be spent on the Interpretation Board in the Nature Reserve.

6. Sites Overview.

Orlin Road Play Area (CE) – Reported to be in good condition.

War Memorial Gardens (GR) – Councillor Rees reported it to be in a good condition.

Councillor Rees advised that one flower bed will be turfed over in the Spring, due to the poor condition of the soil and the lack of sunshine onto the flower bed.

Allens Meadow (CE) – Reported to be in good condition.

Walwyn Meadow and Library Building (JB/GR) – Reported to be in good condition.

Clerk to ask S Maund to move the “No Dogs” sign to the gate on the childrens play area and to reinstall the dog leash hook at a suitable location within the grounds of the library but outside of the play area.

Colwall Green (GR/DF) – Erosion of the Green by traffic continues to be a problem.

It was flagged that should the Primary School be relocated a plan to reinstate the Green area should be considered in conjunction with the Malvern Hills Conservators.

Brookmill Play Area (PB) - Reported to be in good condition.

Aunt Alice (GR/JB) - Reported to be in good order. Councillor Beard to liaise with Councillor Rees regarding potential electrical circuit board trip switch issues and the electrician appointed to remedy as necessary.

Railway Gardens (GR) – Reported to be in good condition.

Nature Reserve - (GR) Reported to be in good condition.

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

i) 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 other than the seat on the Old Church Road. Brockhill Road triangle which The Clerk will arrange the repair thereof and the removal of the low hanging branches from the tree adjacent to the seat.

ii) The request has been withdrawn.

iii) IT WAS RESOLVED that a commemorative seat/bench policy be set. The terms of which are set out below:-

The acceptance of donations for new seats/benches, and the location thereof, is to be at the sole discretion of Colwall Parish Council, or any committee appointed to deal with Village Amenities matters.

The order for such seats/benches is to be placed through the Clerk, and must be sourced from the Parish Council approved supplier list.

The approved supplier list will be maintained by the Clerk and the criteria are that the supplier(s) are to be English Companies, and who manufacture the products themselves in England.

The seats are to be in hard wood either Oak or Oroko and to be 5 – 6ft in length.

The seats maybe inscribed or have a Commemorative plaque installed, if the later, this is to be sourced through the Clerk from the Parish Council approved supplier list.

Payment is to be received in full and from cleared funds before any order is placed.

The Parish Council Clerk will make any necessary enquiries from Highways and obtain suitable approval for the installation, if required, from Highways before any installation commences.

The seat/bench will be installed and maintained by Colwall Parish Council.

Colwall Parish Council reserves the right to remove any donated seat/bench if it is considered unsafe or beyond economic repair.

And Colwall Parish Council reserves the right not replace any donated seta/bench that is stolen.

8. Footpaths

i) The Footpath Officer that there was little to report other than it was very wet underfoot; and because of the excessive rainfall CW41 has a stream which is changed its' course and is infringing on the footpath. The Clerk confirmed that the village maintenance contractor will ascertain if anything can be done to improve the situation, under the P3 scheme.

9. Correspondence

None.

10. Date of next meeting.

The next meeting of the Village Amenities Committee will be held on Wednesday 13th April 2016, at 7:30pm, in the Jean Simon Room at Colwall Village Hall.

The meeting closed at 8.33 p.m.

Chairman.....

Date.....