

VILLAGE AMENITIES COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting of the Village Amenities Committee of Colwall Parish Council held on Wednesday 6th August 2014 at 7.30pm in the Jean Simon Room, Colwall Village Hall.

Present:

Councillors: Beard (Chairman), Ashton, Carless, Mills, Rees, Co-opted members Freda Ballard, David Fisher and Chris Englefield.

1. Welcome and Apologies.

The Chairman Councillor Beard welcomed those present.

Apologies were received from Councillors Milne and co-opted member Derek Rees

2. Declaration of Interests.

None were declared.

3. Minutes.

The minutes of Village Amenities Committee held on Wednesday 4th June 2014 were approved and signed by the Chairman.

4. Amenities Budget.

i) A summary of the 2014/15 Amenities Committee's year to date accounts will be circulated for the meeting; Councillors Mills confirmed expenditure is in line with Budget.

ii) A quotation for the production of a Management Plan for the Charlie Ballard Nature Reserve by William Watson MIEEM, Consultant Ecologists, was considered by the committee. IT WAS RESOLVED that the Clerk commission Mr Watson to undertake the production of a Management Plan at a cost of up to £480 plus VAT.

iii) A quotation for the repairs to various items of play equipment at Orlin Road from the original suppliers – TaylorMade - (now known as Outdoor Play People):-

The Cableway - £6,032 plus VAT.

The Tower Slide - £1865.00 plus VAT

The Torpoint Climbing Frame - £650.00 plus VAT

The quotation for the repairs to the later 2 items, is on the basis that they are undertaken at the same time as the repairs to Cableway. Should the Council decide to proceed with repairs to the later 2 items only then revised quotations will be required as skip hire, security fencing etc will be increase the quotes.

IT WAS AGREED the Clerk will obtain quotations for new equipment in metal (not wood which rots) for comparison purposes. The Quotes will be referred to Full Council assuming they are received before the next Village Amenities Committee meeting.

5. Sites Overview.

Orlin Road Play Area (CE) – Repairs to various items of the play equipment are required (see items 4 iii above). The Clerk reported that the “Aerial Run seat and chain from the Cableway” were removed on the 27th June 2014 following contact from the officer checking the equipment when undertaking the annual ROSPA inspection.

Otherwise this area is reported to be in good order.

War Memorial Gardens (GR) – Councillor Rees reported the poppies have been planted in the 4 troughs which have been placed around the War Memorial. It was agreed that the wooden crosses placed for the Remembrance Service should be encouraged to be placed in the planters. In this regard, Cllr Rees will obtain a number of 6 wooden crosses from the Royal British Legion and plant them in the planters closer to the time.

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

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

Councillor Rees confirmed that the new flower bed at Walwyn Meadow in dedication to the memory of Councillor John Andrews is now complete.

The concrete plinth by Aunt Alice is to be cleaned not removed as utilised by the Library Services, The Clerk is to arrange.

IT WAS AGREED that the Clerk arrange for a plaque for the garden dedicating it in memory of John Andrews.

Colwall Green (GR/DF) – Following a report on the poor condition of the meadow area of Colwall Green by Councillor Beard, IT WAS AGREED the Clerk will arrange a meeting to discuss the Grass Cutting regime objectives with the Director of the Conservators Steven Bound.

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

Aunt Alice – (GR/JB) Reported to be in good condition. Time keeping is monitored by D Rees and G Fleetwood and adjusted accordingly.

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

Nature Reserve - (GR) Excess vegetation growth has been cleared from the paths. The Clerk will commission the Management Report (see 4(ii) above) and report its findings back to the committee.

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.

7. Footpaths

Derek Rees, the footpath officer reported the following:-

Liaison with Herefordshire Council

There has been a restructuring of the Rights of Way Management. Changes in budget have forced them to review their management structure and they have been aware that their ‘approach to prioritising work on paths has had to change’ and this coupled with their ‘limited communication’ ‘may have created ‘difficulties for some’ and they apologise.

The restructure has created a number of Locality Stewards who will have a ‘wide range of responsibilities of which PROW [public rights of way] are only a part’. There will be 13 stewards covering Herefordshire, so inevitably a individual steward will have responsibility for a number of parishes (as the Rights of Way Warden has at present). The steward for our area is Neil James, and it is his ‘intention to visit each and every Parish Council’ in his area.

Current Status of Footpaths

There has been no contact from our Rights of Way Warden during the period. The situations outlined in the previous report regarding the various footpaths do not seem to have changed.

Foliage is causing minor problems on all paths but there are no major problems. The village Maintenance Contractor has cleared a number of the paths and no outstanding problems have been brought to my attention.

8. Correspondence

i) Footpath report J Thomas – no action required.

9. Date of next meeting.

The next meeting of the Village Amenities Committee will be held on Wednesday 1st October 2014, at 7:30pm, in the Jean Simon Room at Colwall Village Hall.

An informal walk in the Nature Reserve will be held at 7pm on Wednesday 3rd September 2014, which Councillor Rees has kindly offered to arrange and facilitate.

The meeting closed at 8.10 p.m.

Chairman.....

Date.....