

VILLAGE AMENITIES COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting of the Village Amenities Committee of Colwall Parish Council held on Wednesday 10th October 2018 at 8.10pm in the Jean Simon Room, Colwall Village Hall.

Present:

Councillors: Butler, Cottam, James, Rees, Soros Trafford-Roberts co-opted members Ballard and Englefield and the Clerk.

1. Welcome and Apologies.

The Vice- Chairman welcomed those present.

Apologies were received and accepted from Councillor Kendrick.

The Vice-Chairman reminded non-committee members that they could discuss but not vote upon items on the agenda.

2. Declaration of Interests.

None were declared.

3. Minutes.

The minutes of Village Amenities Committee held on Wednesday 26th September 2018.were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Vice- Chairman.

4. Progress report –

i) Potential footbridge behind the Thai Rama.

The clerk reported that she had received a letter dated the 21st September 2018, from the land agent of the owner of the field in response to the Parish Councils initial enquiry regarding “a potential footbridge and new footpath link to the school”, which reads as follows:-

I “can confirm that I have discussed this further with my client who has deferred any decision until the adoption of the forthcoming neighbourhood development plan.

I have also been asked to make it clear that should this request be granted it would be for a permissive path only with the surface to remain as agricultural land and on the condition that the routes of other footpaths in the immediate area are reviewed and rationalised”.

IT WAS RESOLVED that:-

i) The clerk write back to the land agent and thank them for the letter and advise them that the “neighbourhood development plan” will not affect this field; and as the Parish Council has the full co-operation of Lockley Homes, the adjoining landowner, (whilst they are still in ownership of the footpath, which will be adopted and the responsibility of Herefordshire Council upon completion of the site) it would therefore be opportune to “commence discussions” with himself if he were “agreeable in principal” to a new footbridge and new permissive footpath link with CW30, which runs through this field. Furthermore, his comments about “any potential new permissive footpath surface to remain as agricultural surface and that the routes of other footpaths in the immediate area are to be reviewed with a view of rationalising” are both noted and agreeable in principal to the Parish Council, subject to the above.

ii) The clerk also write to Lockley Homes, to thank them for their “agreement in principal” and advise then that “discussions are ongoing” with the adjoining landowner for” a new footbridge and new permissive footpath link with CW3, which would link the existing footpath network to the new school via the footpath (reference number pending) that runs directly through their land”.

ii) To consider the options for Colwall Clock Christmas Lights

Councillors Cottam and James provided the following update:-

“They had spoken to the retired electrician regarding the potential refurbishment of the existing lights and he is agreeable in principal, however, the motifs need to be removed from the store to allow him to assess them fully and provide a quotation for refurbishing with LEDs.

Councillor Rees drew to the Councils attention that any fixings for new Christmas lights would need to be “carefully undertaken”, to ensure that no masonry dust falls on the exposed mechanics of Aunt Alice.

Finally, the Clerk confirmed she had arranged for the delivery of the Christmas tree to the week of the 26th November and arranged for the electrician to install the lights the weekend of the 2nd December 2018.

IT WAS RESOLVED that Councillors Cottam and James arrange for the electrician to have full access to the motifs and request a quotation in writing, which is to be forwarded to the Clerk.

In the interim, they will also arrange for the supply and fitting of a set of “icicles” for Aunt Alice in the event that the motifs cannot be refurbished in time for the forthcoming festive season.

5. Amenities Budget.

i) A summary of the 2018/19 Amenities Committee’s year to date accounts was circulated and discussed. The clerk confirmed all expenditure was in line with the budget.

ii) The 2019/20 Budget was presented for consideration. This is similar to the current year’s budget allowing for small increases for costs associated with the Christmas tree and the annual service of Aunt Alice, both of which are based on this year’s costs/quotes.

It was noted that the budget remains the same, as for the current year, “for the erection and removal of the Christmas lights” as no final decision has been made about changing the Christmas lights.

IT WAS RESOLVED that the committee would recommend to Full Council that the budget as presented for 2019/20 will be £18,945.

6. Sites Overview.

Orlin Road Play Area (CE) - Reported by the Clerk, to be in good condition.

War Memorial Garden (GR) – Reported to be in good condition.

Councillor Rees reported that the new fruit trees and commemorative plaque will be planted/installed by the Colwall Cubs and Scouts, in recognition of “the Centenary of the end of the First World War”.

Councillors were reminded that the Remembrance Service will commence at 10.30am on Sunday the 11th November 2018 at St James’s Church, Colwall, should they wish to attend.

The Chairman of the Parish Council will be laying the Parish Council wreath and undertaking “a reading” at the service.

Allens Meadow (CE) - Reported by the Clerk to be in good condition.

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

Councillor Rees reported that the John Andrews garden will receive its’ autumnal tidy up and the “wild flower” meadow” is being replanted for the next year.

Colwall Green (PK) – Reported to be in good order following the autumn seasonal cut of the Green.

The clerk advised she has contacted the Malvern Hills Trust to remind them of the need for the spring seasonal cut of the area (which did not occur in 2018, due to the waterlogged conditions following the very wet Winter of 2017/18), and to enquire about their concerns about the flora and fauna in the area and the output from their recent investigations into this matter.

Brookmill Close Play Area (PB) –The site is reported to be in good condition.

Aunt Alice (GR) – reported to be in good order and good time-keeping.
Derek Rees has met with the alternative clock service/repairer and the Clerk is awaiting a quotation from him for the annual service.

Railway Gardens (RJ) - Reported to be in good order.
Councillor James suggested that he could talk to the owners of Picton Nurseries to see if they wish to “donate” any additional Michaelmas Daisies to the garden and/or would like a plaque in the garden, in front of one of the displays of daisies, which states that they have been “Supplied by Picton Garden and Old Court Nurseries, Colwall, home of the RHS National collection of Michaelmas Daisies”, this was AGREED by the Parish Council.

Nature Reserve (GR/FB) - Reported to be in good order.
Councillor Cottam agreed to contact the school to enquire if they wish to use the Nature Reserve for their fieldwork/studies.

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

- i) All Parish Notice Boards were reported to be in good order.
- ii) Village Seats and Parish Litter bins were all reported to be in good order.

8. Footpaths

- i) The Footpath Officer, Councillor Butler reported the following:-

“At the time of my last report, we were nearing the end of the prolonged dry period; the subsequent rainfall brought some vigorous growth. On the greater scheme of things, there's been relatively little to report.

As planned, the Leadon Vale Ramblers cleared undergrowth and replaced way markers on paths CW 29, 30, 31, 43, 44, 45, 46; all in the Evendine / British Camp area. They noted the density of paths in Colwall and say, “*We met at least four couples or individuals out for a walk which would never happen in North Bromyard!*” CW43 was particularly difficult for them, due to vegetation growth; Steven is investigating, with some assistance from BBLP.

Otherwise, the footpath ‘issues’ since my last report are:

Path	Issue	Action
CW23	Stile: Broken tread	Now replaced/repaired
CW24	Finger Post: Obscured	Now cleared
CW39	Cattle: In field	Visited site: Observed cattle. One bull & numerous cows, with young of mixed gender. Appear to be dairy breeds, so allowable

9. Correspondence

- i) Letter from Balfour of Berringtons dated 21st September 2018, see 4 (i) above.

10 Date of next meeting.

The next meeting of the Village Amenities Committee will be held on Wednesday 5th December at 7:30pm, in the Jean Simon Room at Colwall Village Hall.

The meeting closed at 8.45 p.m.

Chairman.....

Date.....