

VILLAGE AMENITIES COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting of the Village Amenities Committee of Colwall Parish Council held on Wednesday 5th June 2019 at 7.30 pm in the Jean Simon Room, Colwall Village Hall.

Present:

Councillors: Lane (Chairman), Butler, Cottam, Rees, Wiseman, co-opted members Ballard and Englefield and the Clerk.

1. Welcome and Apologies.

The Chairman welcomed those present.

Apologies were received from Councillors Stock and Evans.

2. Declaration of Interests.

None were declared.

3. Minutes.

The minutes of Village Amenities Committee held on Wednesday 10th April 2019 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

4. Amenities Budget.

i) A summary of the 2019/20 Amenities Committee's year to date accounts was not available; the Clerk reported that there has been no exceptional spending to date.

5. Sites Overview.

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

War Memorial Garden (GR) – Reported to be in good condition. Spring planting has been commenced by Councillor Rees. The new fruit trees are due to be planted later this year.

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

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

Councillor Rees reported that the John Andrews garden has received its' spring tidy up and the "wild flower" meadow" will be re-sown and extended shortly.

Colwall Green (PB) – Reported to be in good order. Councillor Rees met with the CEO of the Malvern Hills Trust to discuss the soil analysis results as the wild flowers have not been flowering as well the last couple of years. It is believed to be caused by a rising water table and will be monitored. The Trust will also be replacing the trees by the swings area.

Councillor Rees has made preparations for the planting of the flower boxes at the bus stop.

Clerk to request that the Village Maintenance contractor:-

1. Checks the label on the lower limb of the new oak and remove it when it becomes tight on the bough,

2. Regularly cuts the grass path through the wild flower area.

3. Removes any new tree saplings from the wild flower area.

Brookmill Close Play Area (PB) –The site is reported to be in good condition. Clerk to request that the grass is cut as it appears to be rather long.

Aunt Alice (GR) – reported to be in good order and running up to 2-3 mins fast.

Railway Gardens (GR) - Reported to be in good order.

This area has been allocated to Councillor Wiseman.

Nature Reserve (GR/FB) - Reported to be in good order. Clerk to request that the sluices are checked to ensure free running and any bottles are regularly removed from the pond.

6. 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.

The Clerk reported a new memorial seat has been ordered donated by Parishioners for Colwall Green, and should be delivered and installed during the next few weeks.

7. Footpaths

Colwall Parish Council Footpath Officer Report: June 2019.

Beating of the Bounds 2019 took place on Sunday 26th May, over a slightly amended route from the previous year. The change was to avoid stiles which some participants found challenging. Around 25 people started out, with some walking part-way and other joining en-route. We covered around 21.5km (13.3 miles).

Just as an observation:

A few dogs (and, at one point, a bicycle) came on the walk. Dog walkers probably form a significant proportion of our footpath users, which is fine. There were a few comments regarding some stiles not being so easy for dogs to negotiate, and requests for the Parish Council to install dog gates at stiles. At one point, the presence of cattle in a field, dissuaded the dog walkers from following our route (it didn't stop the bicycle). It almost dissuaded some walkers too, although I think they all eventually walked the field. The cattle had every right to be there; it was just an interesting situation.

This brings up a couple of points, which may be worth re-iterating:

- The upkeep of stiles, gates, etc is the responsibility of the landowners, although CPC tries to be pro-active and resolve issues without recourse to the landowners; it just works faster that way.
- Landowners must give as free access to a PROW as practical i.e. a gap in a hedge is better than a gate, a gate is better than a stile. However, landowners may need to ensure a level of 'security' for livestock which is why there are usually stiles in place. Landowners are not obliged to make PROW access easy for dogs; I guess they may even prefer dogs are kept away from livestock, so there's a balance to be had.

The law is quite clear; it works, and there's nothing to be done about it, but it was informative to see how different people have different needs with regards to our PROWs.

I replaced several faded, or broken way markers. New batch of way markers received.

Below are footpath 'issues' / activity, since my last report:

Path	Issue	Action
Path	Issue	Action
CW30	Fallen finger post, near railway bridge, Brookmill Close.	Re-install.
CW2	Damaged stile, at junction of Brockhill Road and the Purlieu.	Fix tread.
CW4	Missing finger post, where the footpath connects to Hoe Court drive.	Install replacement.
CW1	Colwall Mill Farm. Noted that the footpath has been 're-instated'.	The field had cereal crops growing, with the footpath not easily identifiable. However, the path has been marked out, seemingly by spraying / killing the crop.

CW14	Damaged stile, at Colwall Mill Farm.	Fix treads.
CW14	Missing way marker, between Colwall Mill Farm and Moorcroft Farm.	Difficult to attach way marker to existing gate post. New post, for way marker.
CW20	Damaged stile, near end of Mill Lane.	Fix cross spar.
CW26	Wobbly stile, Barton Cutting.	Stabilise uprights.
CW9	Spike topped fence, leaning at face height towards footpath.	Make fence upright. May need to contact landowner, if Steven can't do this.
CW11	Wobbly stile, within wood, near Downs school.	Stabilise uprights.

8. Correspondence

i) Email request from the resident of The Old Telephone Exchange requesting that the Parish Council consider the reduction to the limbs and reducing the height of the trees along the boundary to allow light into the garden.

After a period of discussion IT WAS RESOLVED that the Clerk write to the resident and advise that whilst the committee was sympathetic to the predicament

"Colwall Parish Council policy is not to manage trees as regards the light; if you wish to have the limbs removed/reduced that over hang your property then you are at liberty to do so at your own cost (subject to obtaining any the necessary permissions should they be subject to any TPOs)".

ii) Malvern Hills Trust notification via Councillor Rees – due to encroachment on the grass at Stowe Lane some new Malvern Stone boulders will be installed to redirect the traffic back onto the roadway.

9. Date of next meeting.

The next meeting of the Village Amenities Committee will be held on the 7th August 2019 at 7:30pm, in the Jean Simon Room at Colwall Village Hall.

The meeting closed at 8.20 p.m.

Chairman.....

Date.....