

Gnosall Parish Council

Minutes of the Open Spaces Committee meeting held on Monday 16th May 2011 at 7.30pm

Present Cllr T Simkin Cllr R Greatrex Cllr D Willetts Cllr P Boston
 Cllr M Deegan Cllr J Tomkinson Cllr K Abbott Jayne Cooper

3 members of the public

PUBLIC OPEN FORUM

A comment was made that details, particularly minutes and agendas, on the parish council's website are not up to date and the Acres Consultation reports are not accessible. The Clerk would ensure that this information is uploaded as soon as possible.

1. To elect a Chairman and Vice Chairman

Cllr Simkin was proposed and seconded as Chairman. This was agreed and Cllr Simkin accepted the position. Cllr Deegan was proposed and seconded as Vice Chairman. This was agreed and Cllr Deegan accepted the position.

2. To receive apologies and record absences.

Apologies received from Cllr Payne.

3. To receive and confirm the minutes of the meetings held on 7 March 2011

The minutes were approved as a true and accurate record.

4. To consider any matters arising not elsewhere on the agenda

- BT phone boxes – Cllr Boston would pass information to the Clerk regarding the rolling programme that BT operates regarding the repainting of phone boxes.
- The Clerk reported that she had received a report of raw sewage being pumped into the brook from Severn's Trent's pumping station. This had been reported and Severn Trent had tended to the problem immediately. The Clerk to contact the Environment Agency to carry out the necessary tests.
- The Clerk had received a quote of £550.00 from the District Valuer to provide a valuation of the Severn Trent land adjacent to the allotments. It was agreed that this information is kept on file and Severn Trent is contacted again to pursue this matter.
- Bus Stop on Brookhouse Road – one glazed panel to be fixed. Clerk to action.
- Signage on Parish Council land near to Sports Club – no action taken yet. The Clerk had discussed this with the Chair of Open Spaces as signs are appearing around the village and whether the same action should be applied to all. The Clerk was asked to speak to the County Council regarding the rules about A-boards.

Cllr Wilkes-Mellor joined the meeting at 8.10pm

5. To receive an update from the Acres Management Working Group on recent meetings, action taken and the visit to Jacksons Marsh on 10 May 2011

Representatives of the Working Group had visited Jackson's Marsh on 10 May to gather ideas for The Acres. Following this visit a follow up working group meeting had been planned for 25 May to prioritise actions. Funding opportunities would be

investigated and the project split to smaller, manageable tasks. Notes of the meetings would be circulated.

Cllr Abbott left the meeting.

6. To consider any maintenance requirements and agree an action plan in the absence of the Handyman including maintenance at:

- a) **The park and play areas** – Cllrs had continued with regular inspections in the absence of the Handyman and details recorded. No major maintenance required.
- b) **Allotments:**
 - The Clerk had received notification from Highways that road planings from the work to be carried out on the A518 would not be suitable for the allotment pathways however it may be possible to source crushed aggregate via Highways. A meeting to be arranged with Highways to discuss further. Cllr Deegan had also received information regarding this from the Environment Agency and would be contacting Mr John Beckett (Flood defence) for further information. Mr Barrow (Allotments Association representative) asked whether a mini digger could be arranged to distribute the crushed aggregate if sourced. It was noted that allotment budget would probably allow this, the Allotment Association may help fund this too. An allotment tenant who owns a digger may also be able to help.
 - The Allotment Association's new container had now been positioned. The Clerk to invoice the Association for half the planning application fee.
 - It was noted that Gnosall Parish Council's insurance does not cover allotment holders on their individual plots. Membership of Gnosall & Allotments Garden Association does cover members but not all allotment tenants are members. Therefore it was agreed that a notice be displayed at the allotment site with these details. When renewal letters are sent in January 2012, details of this to be included in the letter.
- c) **Benches** – Cllr Willetts had produced a report regarding the maintenance requirements on parish benches. The Handyman to work on this on his return to work.

7. To receive any correspondence received in relation to Open Spaces

- a) **Letter from Village Hall requesting financial assistance to purchase a new Notice Board to commemorate the recent Royal Wedding**
The Clerk read out the letter. It was agreed that the notice board stored in the parish office, surplus to the needs of the parish council, be offered to the Village Hall and maybe a new header board to commemorate the royal wedding. A recommendation to be made to Council to approve this donation.
- b) **Renewal reminder for CPRE membership**
It was decided not to renew this membership.
- c) **SCC notice re payment for grass cutting**
The Clerk had invoiced SCC for £2860.80
- d) **Emails regarding signposts in need of repair in Moreton**
The Clerk had received a report from a Moreton resident that the sign posts (finger posts) are in need of repair. This had been confirmed by Cllr Tomkinson. Highways had been notified to carry out the necessary work.

e) **Email from SBC re use of MUGA for skate park**

It was agreed to invite SBC representatives to view the MUGA to determine whether the access points are large enough to accommodate a skate park

f) **Request for hay from the Acres.**

The Clerk to respond to Mr Forrester explaining the hay would be of a higher value this year because of the wild flower content.

8 To confirm the time and date for the next meeting

It was agreed that the annual walk about of the allotment site would be held on 21 June at 7.00pm.

It was agreed the next full Open Spaces Committee meeting would be on 5 July at 7.30pm.

The meeting closed at 8.50pm