

Gnosall Parish Council

Minutes of the Open Spaces Committee meeting held on Tuesday 1 May 2012 at 7.30pm

Present Cllr T Simkin (in the chair) Cllr D Willetts Cllr G Payne Cllr P Boston
 Cllr J Tomkinson Cllr J Cook Cllr R Greatrex Cllr K Abbott
 Jayne Cooper
 And Simon Whittick, Gnosall Allotments Association representative

PUBLIC OPEN FORUM

Mr Whittick would be included in the discussions relating to the Acres during the meeting

- 1 **To receive apologies and record absences.**
Apologies received from Cllr Wilkes-Mellor, Cllr Deegan
- 2 **To receive and confirm the minutes of the meetings held on 7 February 2012**
The minutes were approved as a true and accurate record.
- 3 **To consider any matters arising not elsewhere on the agenda**
 - **Concrete base for benches** – to be discussed under confidential items
 - **Lock Up** – English Heritage had replied; there is no funding available for the information board from EH but had suggested the Heritage Lottery Fund is contacted. Clerk to action.
 - **Notice Board at Wharf Road** - The Clerk reported that she had submitted a funding application for jubilee celebrations and added an additional £500 to help towards the cost of a new commemorative notice board.
 - **Map Board** – it was reported that the Map Board, funded by CPI, had now been put in place at the top of the Allotment Road.
 - **Allotment Road** - it was agreed that Cllr Greatrex should approach Agri Plant Solutions to obtain a price for resurfacing the road (following a similar job carried out at Trentham).

Cllr Boston left the meeting

- 4 **To discuss The Acres:**
 - a) To receive an update on The Management of The Acres project – phase 1 and phase 2 and to discuss maintenance requirements

Fencing – Cllr Deegan had met the contractor who would be replacing all the fencing by the silt trap in about 2 weeks time. Some fencing by the car park play area had been damaged. The Clerk would ask the Handyman to rectify.

Boardwalk – Cllr Deegan had contacted the contractor about the broken kick-board and he suggested we remove the bolt, move the upstand and drill it back into the next board. Handyman to action.

An extension to the boardwalk would be considered in the next phase as well as some hand rails over the stretch over the new pool. A few comments had been received regarding the depth of the water at times. There was discussion about signage. It was agreed to seek advice from Staffordshire Wildlife Trust and Cllr Deegan about how other places, such as Jackson's Marsh, deal with this.

Track - 4mm-dust limestone would be applied to places where it is needed (at the lip to both ends of the boardwalk and the small rain-gully near the play area). The Contractor had suggested GPC find somewhere safe on-site to store about 5-tonnes to carry out its own regular maintenance as and when it is needed. This was not approved.

The allotments track needs some drainage to cope with really wet spells – to be considered during phase 2.

Grass seeding either side of the track near the play area and gate entrance is also needed. Cllr Cook agreed to help with this.

Open Day – this is being arranged for 28 May during the afternoon. Cllr Deegan is liaising with the office to make suitable arrangements.

Phase 2 – a meeting with the Headmistress at St Lawrence School had been planned for 14 May to discuss elements of phase 2.

On behalf of the Allotments Association, Mr Whittick raised the following points:

- Security issues at the allotments – tenants are being encouraged to report all issues to the police
- The turning space that was adjacent the field plots had been removed as a result of the new boardwalk making it difficult for some allotment holders to arrange deliveries
- Allotment internal roads are in poor condition. It was thought the contractor had been asked to scrape the roads to make good but this did not happen. Clerk to check.
- Flooding at the bottom of the allotment road – to be considered during phase 2
- General tidy up – as discussed at the last OS meeting, GPC and GAGA would be happy to fund the hire of a skip. GAGA to check with allotment holders to find the most suitable time for this to be arranged.

b) To consider requests for grass from The Acres

The Clerk reported that she had had requests from local farmers to cut the hay on the Acres later in the year. It was agreed that notices be displayed asking interested parties to submit a price for the cut and removal of hay. Clerk to liaise with Cllr Deegan to ensure the necessary details are displayed including the correct time of when the cut should take place.

5 To discuss and agree action for the Finger Post project in Moreton

Funds had been set aside in the budget to replace the finger posts in Moreton. Approval was given for the Clerk to commence with arrangements.

6 To consider ideas from OS Committee to take to Council (or the new Working Group to be established) regarding the Village Green land

To help with the funding application an established working group should be established. Cllr Abbott to continue to form the working group (including representatives from the Village Greed Field Preservation Society). It was agreed that the working Group should report to Council in the initial stages and eventually this would be passed to Open Spaces. The Clerk to liaise with the solicitors to ensure that all the legal matters had been (or were almost) concluded as well as the uncertainty regarding the Right of Way across the field for a local farmer.

7 To discuss any matters relating to:

The park - It was proposed to obtain revised quotes for replacing the climbing frame and the two small springy pieces of equipment. Grants to be obtained wherever possible. Repairs had been made to areas of the safety surfacing. The Handyman to check condition of the paintwork and carry out necessary work.

Chippy Jumps – Handyman to review before school holidays to check whether any maintenance is required. Surrounding area also to be checked for maintenance (trees and foliage)

MUGA – this is in good condition and well used. Some graffiti visible on seating area. Handyman to be asked to try and clean the affected area.

Basket Ball area/Goal posts – checks to be made and any maintenance issues reported.

Weekly safety checks to continue

8 To receive any correspondence received in relation to Open Spaces

- a) request from SBC to arrange a skate park on the MUGA on 31st August 2012

Approval was given for the skate park to be arranged on the MUGA (if it will fit) or the Grosvenor Centre Car Park. The Clerk to liaise with SBC.

9 To confirm the time and date for the next meeting

10th July 2012

Meeting closed at 9pm