

Gnosall Parish Council
Minutes of the Open Spaces Committee meeting
Held on 15th October 2014 at 7.30pm

Present: Cllr T Simkin (in the chair), Cllr Green, Cllr Deegan, Cllr Willetts, Cllr Cook, Cllr J Tomkinson, Cllr Greatrex, Jayne Cooper

Press and Public Open Forum

Mr Brandram Jones had previously requested permission to plant two apple trees on the Village Green and asked OS for a response. It was agreed that the two trees could be planted in the far corner, behind the two benches, to help screen the health centre building. The Handyman to meet with Mr Brandram Jones. The Committee agreed that the Village Green should not become an area for memorial trees and remain, as previously agreed, as a low maintenance open space.

1	To receive apologies and record absences No apologies received (all present)	
2	To receive any Declarations of Interest There were no declarations of interest.	
3	To receive and confirm the minutes of the meetings held on 19th May 2014 The minutes of the meeting were approved as a true and accurate record.	
4	To consider any matters arising not elsewhere on the agenda There were no matters arising.	
5	To discuss and approve management briefs for all GPC owned open space areas It had been previously agreed that a short management brief for The Acres, Village Green, Chippy Jumps and The Wold would be a useful document for Council and would inform parishioners of the key features, objectives, descriptions and priorities for each of the sites. Starting with the Brief for the Village Green, members were asked to feed back to the Clerk by 25 th September, information to be included. Cllr Simkin, Cllr Deegan and The Clerk would review this at the next monthly progress meeting. Members were reminded that The Wold (the small piece of land between Greenfields and The Flashes), that currently serves no real recreation purpose, could be included in the Neighbourhood Plan should there be a need for land to be identified for development.	All OS members
6	To receive update on a work to be carried out on the brook and silt trap following meeting with SCC and the Environment agency Members were reminded that at a meeting held in May, it had been agreed to clear the silt lagoon and cut back some of brook vegetation and clear the overflow channel. This work had been given approval by the Environment Agency and would be arranged to take place in October. Cllr Greatrex reported that he had received a telephone call from the farmer at Plardiwick	Clerk

	<p>Farm requesting to meet with GPC as he had taken water levels on land he farms and believes the flooding problem is related to land owned by GPC. It was noted that Staffordshire County Council's Farm Manager, Mr James Tyler-Morris, had met with GPC and the EA in May and was in agreement with the planned works and had agreed to discuss this with the farmer at Plardwick Farm. Members felt that perhaps the information had not been passed on therefore the Clerk was asked to contact Mr Taylor-Morris to speak with the farmer directly updating him on the agreed actions.</p> <p>Once the work has been carried out, it was agreed details would be shared with residents via the website and other communications.</p>	<p>Clerk</p> <p>Cllr Deegan</p>
7	<p>To review the maintenance programme and consider including water course management</p> <p>The maintenance programme for the next three months had been reviewed by Cllr Simkin, Deegan and the Clerk at progress meetings. Much of the work is carried out routinely by JWH Ground Maintenance or the Handyman.</p> <p>At the last meeting it had been agreed to purchase wild flower hay to enhance the current meadow however this had not been possible as the price for wild flower hay had risen significantly.</p> <p>The Clerk to contact Mr J Forrester offering a second cut of hay from the Acres.</p> <p>A water course management programme had been included in the management programme however a detailed specification for this work had not yet been drawn up.</p> <p><i>Cllr Tomkinson left the meeting.</i></p>	<p>Clerk</p>
8	<p>To receive an update regarding future use and maintenance:</p> <p>Acres including phase 3 – work is ongoing and would be the focus of Open Space Committee over the coming months (other OS and Council projects this year had resulted in the Acres Phase 3 work being delayed).</p> <p>Play Areas</p> <p>MUGA – following a report at the last meeting regarding water pooling in the centre of the MUGA, levels and measurements had been taken and there were no maintenance requirements.</p> <p>Chippy Jumps - members were asked for ideas to be explored further at a future meeting for an alternative recreation use as the BMX track is now not as popular as it was. Cllr Cook agreed to make arrangements with college students to carry out tree maintenance work on the banks surrounding the Chippy Jumps.</p> <p>Park and ROSPA Reports - the reports had highlighted a few minor repairs that had been carried out by the Handyman. Safety Surfacing issues would be dealt with under confidential items.</p> <p>Allotments</p> <p>Gnosall Allotments and Gardens Association had arranged for temporary resurfacing of the allotment road on 19th September 2014. £200 had been donated by Gnosall Parish News, £200 from GAGA and £200 from the Parish Council. Cllr Greatrex suggested a quote is obtained from contractor that had been appointed by Norbury Park Estate to resurface</p>	<p>Cllr Cook</p>

	<p>Estate roads in the spring of 2015.</p> <p>Security – it was reported that there had been a number of thefts of produce and tools from allotments and sheds. Allotment holders had reported issues to the police.</p> <p>A request for better security had been received from GAGA and this was discussed. Although it had previously been suggested to have a gate at the entrance to the allotment road, it was felt this was not feasible as the road is also used by people parking on the car park to access the railway line (the road is not solely for allotment holders). Opening and locking the gate could also be an issue. It was felt locks on the large gate leading directly into the allotments and also the smaller gate from the boardwalk could be arranged and the Clerk to liaise with GAGA to arrange.</p> <p>Village Green The use of the Village Green for a fun fair in July had been successful with many favourable comments received from residents. The fun fair had been booked again for July 2015. It would be necessary to remove two wooden bollards on the entrance from Brookhouse Road to make access easier for large vehicles. It was agreed to target local organisations to ensure they are aware that the Village Green is a community recreation space and could be used for community events, subject to approval of Gnosall Parish Council. The Clerk to arrange via Communications Committee.</p> <p>Bus Stops Maintenance work, trimming back overgrown vegetation and repairs to roof, is required on the bus stops in Knightley. The Clerk to arrange with JWH Ground Maintenance and the Handyman.</p> <p>Cllr Greatrex offered to get details of used bus shelters from Hollybush Garden Centre that may be suitable for use within the village.</p> <p>Benches and Notice boards Maintenance work is required on Notice Boards in Knightley and opposite the Royal Oak, the Handyman would be informed. Some benches had been refurbished over the summer and general repair work would be noted and carried out by the Handyman.</p>	<p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p> <p>Cllr Greatrex</p> <p>Handyman</p>
9	<p>To receive any correspondence/communication received in relation to Open Spaces</p> <p>a) Request from Communications Working Group for an OS member to send regular updates on OS matters for inclusion in GMK and Website. Cllr Deegan would ensure OS issues are included in Communications.</p> <p>b) An invitation had been received to make a presentation at Stafford Borough Council's Green awards on 23rd October on the work carried out on the Acres in 2012, 2012 and 2013. It was agreed to accept the invitation and Cllr Simkin and Cllr Cook would attend.</p>	<p>Cllr Deegan</p> <p>Cllr Simkin and Cllr Cook</p>
10	<p>To confirm the time and date for the next meeting</p> <p>20th October 2014 at 7.30pm (budget meeting)</p>	

	<p>To exclude the press and public whilst confidential items are discussed</p> <p>Mr Brandram Jones left the meeting</p>	
11	<p>To receive quotations to replace and repair safety surfacing at the play area</p> <p>The new climbing frame had been erected and installed by the Handyman and a local volunteer. However, the equipment was not yet in use as the surrounding safety surfacing requires replacing. Quotations had been sought but unfortunately had not arrived. It was acknowledged that safety surfacing is very expensive and the Handyman had suggested using patching kits to cut the costs. However, although the suggestion of saving money was appreciated, it was agreed that a complete resurfacing job is carried out by a professional company. In addition, the ROSPA reports had identified repairs to the surfacing at various other locations within the park and quotations would be sought for this work too.</p> <p>Basketball frame maintenance</p> <p>Cllr Simkin informed members that following receipt of quotations, a local contractor had been asked to repaint the basket ball frame as the flaking paint was dangerous and looked untidy. However the job had not been carried out well and the paint was already coming off. No invoice had yet been received. The contractor had been approached about this and queried the specification. Cllr Greatrex to review the job later this week.</p>	Clerk

The meeting closed at 9.05pm