

**Gnosall Parish Council**  
**Minutes of the Open Spaces Committee meeting**  
**Held on 6<sup>th</sup> February 2017 at 7.30pm**

Present: Cllr T Simkin (in the chair), Cllr J Tomkinson, Cllr R Greatrex, Cllr J Cook, Cllr D Webb, Cllr G Payne, Cllr M Deegan, Cllr C Emsley

**Press and Public Open Forum** – none present

1	<b>To receive apologies and record absences</b>  Received from Cllr Green, Jayne Cooper (illness)	
2	<b>To receive any Declarations of Interest</b>  None, other than Cllr Deegan confirming that as an allotment holder he had an interest in discussions relating to the allotments.	
3	<b>To receive and confirm the minutes of the meetings held on 21.11.17</b>  These were confirmed as a true and accurate record and signed as such.	
4	<b>To consider any matters arising not elsewhere on the agenda</b>  Cllr Cook confirmed that he, together with members of staff from his college, would be undertaking a site visit to examine the trees along the allotment road on 20 February.  Dog Fouling - It was thought this campaign was still going well. There is apparently a problem in the Cross Street area at present. Cllr Webb suggesting that, if possible, the complainant could take photographs. Cllr Webb was thanked by the Chairman for all his hard work.	Cllr Cook
5	<b>To discuss updates and maintenance requirements</b>  <b>The Allotments</b>  <b>a The Allotments</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It was noted that following a recent inspection a digger (with driver) at a cost of £200 had been arranged to tidy up the far part of the allotments. A skip is to be provided free of charge</li> <li>• The field adjacent to the allotments has been sold and is to be fenced off by the purchaser.</li> <li>• Renewal arrangements and a proposed new tenancy agreement had been forwarded to some members, and the following comments were made: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ No. 12 needs to include " no parking on the access road"</li> <li>➤ No. 19 to include "only one building per plot"</li> <li>➤ No. 25 change re fires on allotment track</li> <li>➤ No. 29 Include a map of the Parish as included in the Neighbourhood Plan</li> <li>➤ The heading to include -Agreement for the year .....</li> <li>➤ An additional numbered paragraph re "No tipping"</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>There followed some discussion with regard to the road barrier which has been proposed and it was acknowledged that we would not be in a position to have this in place prior to this year's agreement although it was thought appropriate that mention of a proposed barrier could be included in the covering letter that would be sent with the agreement.</p>	Clerk

	<p>Concern was expressed at the proposed cost of a barrier at £1.2k which was thought to be likely too low a figure as there was little point in installing a barrier which could be easily circumvented. Ideally it would be appropriate to have the barrier installed at the same time as the access road was improved, for the time being however, it was decided to defer any decision.</p> <p><b>b. The Acres and update on the Boardwalk repairs</b></p> <p>The boardwalk contractor has been ready to commence work since late November. It has however, been too wet and it is likely to be some time yet before work commences.</p> <p>The meeting was told of a meeting that had been held with Staffordshire County Council on Thursday 2 February at which the provision of financial assistance from the Council was discussed. Those present at the meeting were:</p> <p>SCC: S Garner and W Woodward  GPC: Cllr Alker, Cllr Greatrex, Cllr Abbott and Cllr Deegan - apologies were received from Jayne Cooper, Cllr Booth, Cllr Gregory and Cllr Simkin. HBCL - members were absent</p> <p>Apparently HBCL have not informed SCC in writing that they have agreed to support GPC's proposals and, as a stakeholder, they have to be included. SG and WW advised the meeting that they did not believe that SCC's Legal Dept would grant any extension in time to submit our £50k claim. They further advised that our plan needs to be</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- proportionate</li> <li>- best value</li> <li>- demonstrate what has been applied for and which companies have been consulted</li> </ul> <p>time being however, it was decided to defer any decision.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- show evidence of consultation with the community</li> <li>- show support from the school and surgery</li> <li>- confirm viability of the initial project and ongoing maintenance, insurance etc.</li> </ul> <p>Given the passage of time it was proposed, seconded and approved by all that we should proceed with a plan for an all weather tennis court and outdoor adult gym equipment. This would be put to the full Council meeting on 13 February.</p> <p>The disappointing news that the police would not be proceeding with any prosecutions relating to the boardwalk fire was briefly discussed and given the burden of proving beyond all reasonable doubt that the alleged perpetrator was guilty it was reluctantly accepted that there was little further that the Council could do. A carefully worded report would be include in future Parishioner communications</p> <p><b>c. Play Areas</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maintenance considered satisfactory although a number of rotting fencing posts have been identified.</li> <li>• It was agreed that professional fencers be approached for their suggestions and prices.</li> </ul> <p><b>d. Chippy Jumps</b></p> <p>As a result of very wet weather, resurfacing has not started although this should be started quickly once the weather improves. Concern was</p>	<p>Cllr Simkin</p> <p>Clerk</p>
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