

**Gnosall Parish Council**  
**Minutes of the Open Spaces Committee meeting**  
**Held on 21<sup>st</sup> July 2017 at 11am**

Present: Cllr T Simkin (in the chair), Cllr D Webb, Cllr M Deegan, Cllr R Greatrex, Cllr J Tomkinson, Cllr V Kessey, Cllr T Innamorati, Jayne Cooper

**Press and Public Open Forum** – 1 member present

1	<p><b>To receive apologies and record absences</b></p> <p>Apologies received from Cllr Greatrex and Cllr Tomkinson</p>	
2	<p><b>To appoint a non councillor member to the Open Spaces Committee</b></p> <p>Mr Jordan Archer had expressed an interest in becoming a non council member and this was welcomed as Mr Archer has a keen interest in the work of the Open Spaces Committee. Members noted that council committees (other than Finance Committees) are allowed to have non council members but there was some uncertainty about voting rights. The Clerk believed there were some circumstances where non councillors are eligible to vote but was unsure of the detail. Until this query is resolved, it was agreed to defer the appointment of Mr Archer.</p>	
3	<p><b>To receive any Declarations of Interest</b></p> <p>As an allotment holder Cllr Deegan declared an interest.</p>	
4	<p><b>To receive and confirm the minutes of the meetings held on 5<sup>th</sup> June 2017</b></p> <p>These were confirmed as a true and accurate record of the meeting.</p>	
5	<p><b>To consider any matters arising not elsewhere on the agenda</b></p> <p><b>Grass Cutting Grant</b> SCC had been invoiced for the grass cutting grant for the year 2017. The Clerk informed cllrs that she had calculated the costs of verge cutting and the grant received does not cover the costs. She had written to Staffordshire County Council in respect of making an amendment to the agreement and an increased contribution, which was signed in 2010 and is for 8 cuts per year. The current contractor makes 15 cuts at £330 per cut.</p> <p><b>Acres Hay</b> - The Hay had been tendered for by John Forrester. The hay had been cut and collected mid July. £200 would be received.</p> <p><b>Boardwalk and Chippy Jumps</b> - The official opening of the boardwalk and chippy jumps park was held on 29<sup>th</sup> June and despite the bad weather there was a good turnout for both events.</p> <p><b>Business Case ref Memorandum of Understanding between SCC/GPC</b>  This had been submitted prior to the deadline of 31<sup>st</sup> March and the outcome is still awaited.</p> <p><b>Knightley Notice Board</b> – maintenance still outstanding. The Handyman to be reminded and also asked to inspect the Outwoods notice board that leaks from the top.</p> <p><b>Outwoods Defibrillator</b> – this is now installed and functional in the adopted telephone box in Outwoods. Cllr Innamorati had been liaising with Western Power about an electrical connection to power a light. The</p>	

	<p>quote received is £1002 which does not include digging a trench for ducting therefore this option would be discounted and a cheaper option considered.</p> <p><b>Posts around play park</b> – Cllr Greatrex suggested plastic posts could be considered when the budget is set in November (as recently viewed at Tatton Park).</p> <p>Next year's budget also to include more anti dog fouling signs.</p> <p>The <b>Best Kept Village</b> team were congratulated on the work carried out during the summer. Results of the BKV competition would be announced on 7<sup>th</sup> August.</p>	
6	<p><b>To receive a report from the Burial Ground Working Group on ideas for improvements and maintenance of Chicken &amp; Hen Lane</b></p> <p>A detailed report from the working group with plans for the clearance and future maintenance of Chicken &amp; Hen Lane was received and discussed. The main aims of the project are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To clear the lane of brambles and overgrown hedging</li> <li>• To lay a suitable surface for ease of access</li> <li>• To make the lane secure</li> <li>• To highlight the historical links to its previous use.</li> <li>• To use the lane as an additional access to the new burial ground extension</li> <li>• To install gates at a cost of £350 (supply of and installation) at the end of the lane.</li> </ul> <p>It was proposed, seconded and unanimously agreed to accept the recommendations in the report including the purchase of the gates. The working group were thanked for their prompt action.</p>	Burial Ground Wking Gp
7	<p><b>To receive a report from Cllrs Deegan and Kessey following their attendance at a SPCA course relating to the management of allotments</b></p> <p>The Clerk had received copies of the course presentation. Cllrs were informed of the course content and possible improvements to the current allotment tenancy. It would also be useful to have more information about the allotments on the parish council website. Cllr Deegan, Cllr Kessey and the Clerk to meet in September to cross reference the current tenancy with information gained from this course.</p>	Cllrs Kessey, Deegan, Clerk
8	<p><b>To receive any correspondence relating to the Open Spaces Committee</b></p> <p>A letter sent to Hollies Common residents regarding the sale of Hollies Common (part of the Ranton Estate) was circulated. Residents had been asked whether they have any interest in purchasing the 7.45 acres of land. Councillors felt that all Councillors should be made aware of this at the September Council meeting and in the meantime the Clerk to ask for more details from the surveyors.</p> <p>The Clerk informed Cllrs that an allotment tenant who had recently taken over a plot had requested a free year in 2018 as he believed the poor condition of the plot he had taken on and paid for was unfair as the condition of it does not allow anything to be planted. This was noted.</p>	Clerk
9	<p><b>To confirm the time and date for the next meeting</b></p> <p>Date to be confirmed</p>	

	<i>To exclude members of the press and public whilst confidential information is discussed</i>	
10	<p><b>To receive quotations for the supply and installation of a gate at the entrance to the allotment road</b></p> <p>Two quotations had been received from Campion Fencing and Staffordshire Fencing for the supply and installation of 2 wooden field gates to allow a 16ft opening as well as a kissing gate to the side. It was felt a single gate would be preferable therefore both suppliers to be asked to amend their quotes accordingly. Suppliers to confirm that the kissing gate would be built to ensure pedestrian, disabled and pushchair access. Cllr Innamorati and the Clerk to action.</p>	Cllr Innamorati, Clerk
11	<p><b>To receive tenders for the grass cutting contact for the years 2018-2022</b></p> <p>The Clerk had sent details to 9 interested companies. Three tenders (from Streetscene, Countrywide Ground Maintenance and JWH Ground Maintenance) had been received and were opened and discussed in the meeting.</p> <p>It was proposed, seconded and unanimously agreed to accept the tender from JWH Ground Maintenance. The Clerk to respond accordingly to all companies.</p>	

Meeting closed at 12.30pm