



Minutes of the Meeting of the Operations Committee Held on Wednesday 19th March 2014 At 10.30am in the Community Office

Present:

Councillors:

Barry Adby – Chairman
Ian Hill
Robert Barber

Officer:

Kristina Tynan

18/14 Apologies for Absence

Bob West, Tony Williamson, Tim Horton, Neil Boddington and Linda Nicholson.

19/14 Minutes of the Meeting held on 19th February 2014 which were accepted by Council on the 11/3/2014 to be agreed

Resolved: That these minutes were a correct record of this meeting and that they be signed by the Chairman.

20/14 Declarations of Interest

There were none notified.

21/14 Matters arising

Hedge in Car Park – This has been laid by Nigel Adams. RB said that since it has been laid he has had many compliments on how good it looks.

Johnson's Alley – It was reported that there has been a huge amount of garden waste dumped in this location. SODC will be informed of this.

22/14 Outstanding Issues

1. **Howe Hill Hedges** (OCC ref 604065) –update by BA who met on site with Ian Fieldwick OCC and who stated that it has been cut back and that there is no problem with it at the moment.

2. **Pothole by Car Park** – Our caretaker has made a temporary repair but we need to get it repaired properly. BA/KT to deal with this.

3. **Post-box at Christmas Common** – A reply has been received from Royal Mail saying that they will not change the replaced post-box and this was noted.

4. **Gritting at Northend.** - A letter has been received from OCC stating that they will not grit this area as it is not economically or practically viable for them to do so. They have suggested that the parish have a 'self help' approach to this issue.

Resolved: That RB write to the residents of Northend stating the reply received by OCC on this issue and that the Clerk contact OCC to see if the Gritter diverted to Northend what cost this would incur.

5. **Howe Road Phone Box** – The Clerk has sent two emails on this to British Telecom one regarding the vegetation and one reporting the broken window. – We are awaiting a reply to these.

6. **Sports Field Hedge** – Owain Devey will be doing this by the end of the month and then letters and photos to be sent to the Football and Cricket Club.

23/14 Property

a. Car Park

i) **Drains in Car Park** – Awaiting quotes for this. However it was noted that we have had no problems with the drains since OPC cleared them out.

Resolved: That we continue to monitor the drain situation but do no further work to the drains at this time.

ii) Car Park Entrance/Watcombe Road – To ask TH for an update regarding the meeting with the Co-op. RB suggested that we look into possibly installing cast iron bell bollards to be put by the entrance to Watcome Road. It was noted that there would need to be 3 in place to stop the bank being destroyed.

Resolved: That we get a price and dimensions of cast iron bell bollards for the next meeting. BA to speak to OCC regarding this issue.

b. Public Conveniences

i) **Updating of the facilities** –To ask TH to update the committee regarding draft tender of works for the next meeting.

c. Community Office

No items for discussion.

24/14 Open Spaces

a. Recreation Ground

i) **Parish Controlled Trees** – Report/Quote from Martin Gammie has been received and was attached to the agenda.

Resolved: That we note this report and that it be an agenda item for the next meeting. RB and KT to seek 2 more quotes for the same works.

ii) **Dog Fouling Issues** – Report on meeting from the 'Stoop and Scoop' group and discussion on Green Dog Walker scheme – information was attached to the agenda.

BA, IH and KT attended the meeting with the 'Stoop and Scoop' group they were keen on the Green Dog Walker Scheme and agreed to discuss this with their wider group. BA and KT was tasked with looking into funding towards it. There would be a one-off license fee of £500 as well as the necessary merchandise needed for the scheme. The 'Stoop and Scoop' group are using yellow chalk to identify dog fouling in Watlington.

The 'Stoop and Scoop' group will be coming back to us with quotations for live CCTV camera installation. This will then be discussed at the next meeting.

BA stated that there is a problem with Red Kites fouling in this area which looks like dog fouling.

It was noted that dogs should be under control in public areas. RB said

iii) **Litter**

It was noted that litter is a problem on the Sports Field at the weekends.

iii) **I-Play** – No update.

b. **Mansle Gardens** – update on this sent by WIB and note from TH which was attached to the agenda. Items WIB have asked the Operation Committee to discuss:

- 1) Residents in this area would love to see the hedge reduced to some 5 foot as a maximum. This would undoubtedly improve locals sense of security and improve others interest in the area. Can this be done before spring/summer? **It was agreed to ask Berinsfield for a quote for this.**
- 2) The vines have been moved to the pergola. Other planting will take place – is some cash available for this? **There is no money in the budget for this.**
- 3) The pathway – this is badly damaged in one section (on the Brookside side) after 25 years by surface roots. One solution may be to use Breedon pathway (as in the Paddock) if only for that section. Can we consider this be considered and some costings sought? **It was agreed that RB look into this issue.**
- 4) There is a small dog sign visible at the entrance – a few more of our signs (perhaps laminated on the wood fencing) would certainly help. **It was agreed that we ask the 'Stoop and Scoop' group to monitor this area. It was felt that more signs would spoil the area.**
- 5) A major issue of concern is the Ash tree. This has been an on-going matter and it has a particularly bad effect on one residents' property. Will it be taken to a very low level and all material taken away?
RB said that he recommended re-pollarding this tree to hedge height and he spoke to the affected residents who were happy with this.
Resolved: That as this work was agreed to be done previously that we obtain a quote from Owain Devey for this work as well as the work to the tree in no 6. It was noted that this will need to have permission.
- 6) Is the squirrel damaged cherry tree is to get a similar treatment as the Ash? It would then allow another to flourish. **It was agreed to add this work to the resolution above.**

25/14 General Issues

1. **Co-option onto Committee.** Agreed to defer to the next meeting.
2. **Meeting with John Howell** – this was noted. Another meeting will be scheduled in April.
3. **Flooding issues around Watlington** – TH to give list of problems he has identified which can then be sent to OCC and SODC as they have requested this. Areas noted to have had problems were.
 1. The Goggs
 2. Area by Chip Shop.
 3. Brook Street.
 4. Ingham Lane.

4. **Emergency Plan** – adding more volunteers – Agreed to defer to next meeting.

5. **Bike Racks in Town** – No information received – Deferred to next meeting.

26/14 Budget and Financial and Staff Issues

1. **Caretaker's schedule** – referred from Finance – information was sent out to members. The schedule was considered. It was noted that the caretaker should walk around the car park each week including the top end and report or deal with any problems. The car park drains need to be kept clear at all times. It was noted that the caretaker spends a number of hours up the Pavilion at present which was previously allocated to other WPC issues

2. **Infrastructure Money available from SODC** – TH to update on application – No update received.

27/14 Action List

To note any outstanding actions if needed and to note completed actions on the caretaker list. The current Action List to be sent out by the Clerk.

28/14 Correspondence

1. R Barber – Brook in West Meadow – for information. Councillors have received this by email – **Noted.**

2. Sue Ryder – Nettlebed Hospice – information on the annual cycle ride event Sunday 11th May – 3 routes planned.- **Noted.**

3. SSE – Contract renewal offer – Do we do this? **It was noted that we are changing contractors.**

4. Francis Callejo – re collision with building 2 High Street by lorry – **BA has spoken to her regarding this.**

5. Beechwood Estates – Asking when hedge around sports field is going to be cut. **BA has spoken to John Errington and has updated him with this information.**

29/13 Future Issues for Discussion

Paddock – various issues– WIB will give us a wish list for the March meeting.
Skateboard ½ pipe - March Meeting

30/13 Any Other Business

Paddock drainage by gate (Library end) - It was noted that we need to address this issue.

THERE BEING NO OTHER BUSINESS THE MEETING CLOSED AT 11.55AM

