

MEETING OF THE AMENITIES COMMITTEE

**Monday 8th July 2024 at 7pm, Parish Council Office,
Old School Building, Main Street, Burton Joyce**

Present: Cllrs G Hadjigeorgiou (Chair) P Hyde (Vice-Chair) H Chadbourne-Doyle and Y Greenfield

In attendance: J Sherrin (Clerk) D List (Grounds & Amenities Manager) and 2 GHA Representatives.

DRAFT MINUTES

AM24/430 **Apologies for Absence** – Cllr R Fife (Holiday)

AM24/431 **Election of Chair** – Cllr Hadjigeorgiou unanimously elected as Chair

AM24/432 **Election of Vice-Chair** – Cllr P Hyde unanimously elected as Vice Chair

AM24/433 **Declarations of Councillors' interest for items on the agenda** – Cllr Hyde has an allotment

AM24/434 **Minutes of meeting held on April 30th 2024** - Approved as a true record and signed by the Chair

AM24/435 **Allotments**

(i) GHA Update – Concerns raised regarding the growing number of rabbits and rats, and the proliferation of weeds, some of which was caused by overgrown plots. Cllrs explained that the process of giving tenants opportunity to improve, coupled with notice-periods, made the time between a plot being handed back and rented out again long enough for weeds to become a problem. Comparison was made with Stoke Lane allotments, where tenancy agreements are much stricter and more closely monitored; the site is sub-let by GBC to the Allotment Committee, so monitoring is regular. They also have a 3-month probationary period. It was thought to be more brutal, but effective. Cllrs noted that sometimes tenants have genuine reasons for not being able to tend their plots (serious illness for example) so some leeway is given to them. Cllrs proposed a review / tightening up of procedures and the introduction of an induction pack may help, along with more frequent inspections and a clear time-line of the relinquishing process. Also for introductions to new tenants to be conducted in conjunction with the GHA. One member of the GHA to attend inspections with Councillors. GHA will organise rabbit control and will bring suggestions for locking gates to next meeting. D List noted that overgrown plots cannot be flailed because of the risk of wires and debris in the ground. Cllr Greenfield to contact clearance company.

(ii) Allotment inspection and waiting list – 3 residents and 14 non-residents on list. 10 plots now available following recent inspections and annual invoicing.

GHA representatives left at this point

(iii) Maintenance – Loss of numbering post discussed. Noted that around half the posts installed have been removed by tenants, so few are remaining. Concrete posts a possible option. Could be installed by fencing contractor. Alternatively charge could be made to tenants for any post removed. Cllrs noted that when plots are halved it is not clear where the pathway is, so needs to be marked in some way. D List to bring ideas for numbering to the next meeting.

AM24/436 **Roberts Recreation Ground**

- (i) RoSPA report – Review findings. D List reported that nothing dangerous has been highlighted in the report and that all actions are remedial. Some works will require contractors’ input. Cllr Hadjigeorgiou to meet D List on site Tuesday 16th July.
- (ii) Agreement on weed-spraying regime - Agreed for park to be closed for one day for glyphosate spraying to remove weeds from surfaces and for remedial works, including removal of old signage, to be carried out in the playground at the same time to minimise park closure time / disruption. Cllr Hadjigeorgiou to post on Facebook when it will be closed and signage to be made for gate.
- (iii) Equipment and maintenance – As above. Cllr Hadjigeorgiou voiced concerns raised to her by park users regarding the fumes emitted from the ice-cream van. It is still parking on double yellow lines and is alleged to have dumped rubbish in Stoke Bardolph. Cllr Hadjigeorgiou to contact Cllr S Smith at GBC to ask if enforcement can follow up on the double yellow line parking. The school also provide a link to the ‘report it’ section of the GBC website.

AM24/437 War Memorial

- (i) Fence Replacement – Works completed
- (ii) Ramped Access – Quote sought by D List

AM24/438 Cemetery

- (i) Request for memorial bench – update from meeting with resident. Difficult meeting had taken place with the residents in which 2 options were provided, after which deeply offensive and unacceptable language had been used in a follow up email. Agreed for individual councillor concerned to send personal response. Noted that the decision had been a committee one, with the councillors present representing the *whole committee*. D List noted that in a cemetery recently visited, no choice at all was given for the selection of benches. The concern was for setting a precedent for more elaborate seating being installed, which was not in keeping with the rest of the cemetery. Unanimously agreed for Cllr Hadjigeorgiou to write back to residents to advise that the 2 proposed options remained.

AM24/439 The Grove

- (i) Update from meeting with resident regarding fencing – Cllrs had visited the site and concluded that the existing boundary was sufficient and it was the responsibility of the householder to install any form of fencing of they wish. Clerk to advise resident.
- (ii) Request for party from Scouts – Approved. Signage to be put up on the gate. Clerk to advise Scouts that a judgement will need to be made in the days before the event as to whether the ground is suitable for a bbq and that all rubbish must be cleared afterwards. Risk Assessment to be provided by Scouts for the event.

AM24/440 Old School Building Maintenance

- (i) Update on planned renovations works – Clerk spoke to contractor. Works due to start w/c 22nd July. Asked contractor to liaise directly with ceiling installer for sequencing. Request also made to quote to decorate Main Hall.
- (ii) Other maintenance – Update on brass band storage. Cllr Greenfield to follow up.

AM24/441 Terms of Reference – Review for 2024-5 – Proposed to add delegated authority to Chair and Vice Chair to authorised dividing up plots.

AM24/442 New Hand Mower – Existing mower, bought March 2023, used for cemetery and war memorial, has broken down – drive cable needs to be replaced. D List advised would take 4 weeks to repair. Requested purchase of 2nd hand mower as back-up. Approximate cost £800. To be proposed to Full Council for approval. Issues with tyres on ride-on mower also raised – trouble fitting them. Have 2nd machine to use whilst machine is with tyre fitter. Noted recent repair on the scag stand-on mower was £800.

AM24/443 Information update – Contact had been made from resident requesting weeds around bench in front of shops to be cleared. Noted by D List that GBC / NCC are no longer weed spraying. Cllr Hadjigeorgiou volunteered to do the weeding. Lowdham Horticultural Society posters – approved to put up.

AM24/444 Date of next meeting – 7pm September 3rd 2024

Signed: _____

Date: _____

Chair of Amenities Committee