

MEETING OF THE AMENITIES COMMITTEE

**Monday 25th March 2024 at 11:30am, Parish Council Office,
Old School Building**

Present: Cllrs P Hyde (Chair) H Chadbourne-Doyle, R Fife and Y Greenfield

In attendance: J Sherrin (Clerk) D List (Grounds & Amenities Manager) and Cllr L King

DRAFT MINUTES

- AM24/406** **Apologies for Absence** – Cllr Hadjigeorgiou
- AM24/407** **Declarations of Councillors’ interest for items on the agenda** – Cllrs Hyde and Fife have allotments
- AM24/408** **Minutes of meeting held on January 23rd 2024** – Approved as a true record and signed by the Chair
- AM24/409** **Roberts Recreation Ground**
- (i) Equipment and maintenance – Concern raised from most recent playground inspection of area surrounding roundabout. D List to seek quote for surfacing this with rubber crumb. To also get advice on using rubber crumb for banks around double slide instead of steps. To also review Woodborough playground.
- AM24/410** **Allotments**
- (i) Allotment inspection and waiting list – 4 residents and 20 non-residents on waiting list. 5 plots available. Cllrs Hyde and Hadjigeorgiou to agree on inspection date with Deputy Clerk.
 - (ii) Maintenance – Water due to go on now, D List to action.
 - (iii) Access to Allotments –Communication with Severn Trent Water and Deputy Clerk noted. Tenants to be advised to always come through Parish Council Office to request vehicle access to allotments and for Station Road entrance only to be used. D List noted issues had also arisen with access at Poplars Sports Ground onto STW land. Now resolved.
 - (iv) Plot 53 Shed – D List to action removal of asbestos roof at cost of £95. Tenants to dispose of rest of shed themselves.
- AM24/411** **War Memorial**
- (i) Fence Replacement – 3 panels of fence replaced. Pruning works to on jobs list.
 - (ii) Ramped Access – D List has contacted War Memorial Trust. Work on War Memorial itself must be done by specialist, D List to action and to confirm area surrounding memorial may be done by non-specialist and seek 3 quotes for work if this is the case.
- AM24/412** **Cemetery**
- (i) Ashes casket materials – Materials to be used discussed. Agreed that bio-degradable is preferred and use of natural materials is essential. No plastics. Clerk to update regulations accordingly.
 - (ii) To review Environmental Plan proposals from Community Engagement Committee:
 - a. To re-naturalise the small bank in the cemetery with bulbs and primroses – approved (bulbs to be planted Sept / Oct)

- b. To sow the old open grave tops (initially 10) with wildflowers – Not approved. As don't own graves, not considered appropriate. 4 dedicated beds at front to continue to be used for wildflowers.
- c. To plant 4 formal beds with pollinator-friendly plants - approved
- d. To introduce stock plants (buddleia and herbaceous shrubs) to 4 beds at front – approved.

Request for replacement memorial bench in garden of rest considered. Agreed that proposed design was not in keeping with the existing cemetery furniture and needed to be appropriate to the public space being provided. Clerk to advise resident of supplier used by the Parish Council with pictures of existing benches.

AM24/413

The Grove

- (i) Letter from resident regarding yew trees reviewed. Noted Policy is to prune for safety not light. Reducing tree height for the reasons of light would set a precedent for the many trees under the Parish Council's management, which would become prohibitively expensive as a tree surgeon would be required to conduct the works. Clerk to advise resident of decision.
- (ii) To consider installation of owl boxes (ref Environmental Plan) – Believed owl boxes already installed at same time as bat boxes. D List to check.

AM24/414

Old School Building Maintenance

- (i) Update on quotes from building contractors – D List to organised 3rd quote as soon as possible. Ceiling quote received.
- (ii) Other maintenance – Flower boxes now planted. Storage facilities being reviewed by Cllrs King and Greenfield with D List and Clerk.

AM24/415

Diana Flower Bed – D List re-planting this week.

AM24/416

Grass Verges – Minimum mow height of verges to allow low growing flowers to bloom and seed – 3 inches /7.5 cm mow height (ref Environmental Plan) – Approved. Concern raised regarding edging and upkeep of verges. Cllr King to review with D List.

AM24/417

Information update – Clerk reported that she has recently completed the Valuation Office request for information cemetery capacity and size – copy of report previously circulated. Conclusion that approx. 30 years of burial spaces remain on the site.

AM24/418

Date of next meeting – Tuesday 30th April at 7:30pm

Meeting closed 12:50pm

Signed: _____
Chair of Amenities Committee

Date: _____