



ASTON CLINTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the **Facilities Committee** meeting
held at 6.30pm on **12th July 2023** at the
Parish Council Office, Aston Clinton Park, HP22 5HL

PRESENT: Cllr D McCall (Chair), Cllr C Read, Cllr L Ronson & Cllr P Wyatt.

IN ATTENDANCE: Mrs S Payne (Clerk) and 1 member of the public (agenda item F23.09)

F23.09 Public Participation

An allotment holder made a complaint against the Colts tournament organisers. The allotment holder was not given access to the car park and was unable to drive to the allotment with their equipment. The older teams pitch had been set up too close to the allotments without any mitigation, which meant a lot of balls were falling into the allotments, damaging plants and needed to be retrieved. In the first instance the allotment holder was throwing the balls back but as time went on they asked the footballers to retrieve the balls themselves. At this point one of the tournament organisers became rude and abusive.

Cllr McCall reported that a meeting with the tournament organisers would be arranged to discuss the issues raised by the event.

F23.10 To Receive Apologies for Non-Attendance Received from Cllr C Judge & Cllr M Mason.

F23.11 To Elect a Vice-Chair It was resolved to elect Cllr Ronson as Vice-Chair.

F23.12 To Receive Declarations of Interest or Requests for Dispensation None received.

F23.13 To Approve the Minutes of the Meeting Held on 31st May 2023

The minutes of the meeting held on 31st May 2023 were approved as a true and accurate record and were signed by the Chair.

F23.14 To Agree Working Group Membership

It was resolved that the membership of the working groups were as follows:

Events Working Group: Cllr Judge, Cllr Mason & Cllr McCall

Grounds Maintenance Working Group: Cllr McCall, Cllr Read & Cllr Ronson

RKP Working Group: Cllr Hughes, Cllr Mason & Cllr Read

Sports & Recreation Working Group: Cllr Judge, Cllr Ronson & Cllr Wyatt.

F23.15 To Review the Working Group Terms of Reference

The Terms of Reference for the Events Working Group, Grounds Maintenance Working Group, RKP Working Group and Sports & Recreation Working Group were reviewed.

F23.16 To Consider a Request for a Gate Directly onto the Park from a Neighbouring Property

A request for retrospective permission for a gate leading directly from the garden of 4 Birch Close onto the park's main car park was considered. A gate had been installed into the boundary fence on 21st June 2023. It was resolved that permission for a gate from the garden of 4 Birch Close would not be granted as the gate would lead directly onto the park's main car park and would be a health and safety concern. **ACTION:** Clerk

The harris fence, installed in front of the gate would remain in place until the gate had been removed.

F23.17 To Agree to Purchase 2 Replacement Benches for the Lady Rothschild Fountain from General Reserves

Cllr McCall reported that the current oak benches at the fountain were installed in June 2022 and were not aging well with the wood surface wearing badly. A complaint had been made to the manufacturer and a refund or exchange had been requested. Cllr McCall asked the Committee to consider moving the current oak benches to the churchyard and replacing them at the fountain with two ready assembled, heavy duty teak benches at a cost of £1013 from general reserves.

Following discussion it was agreed that once the lacquer on the current oak benches had worn away the benches would naturally age and look better and there would therefore not be a need to replace them.

F23.18 To Consider Requiring Dogs to be Kept on Leads within the Park

A request to consider the need for dogs within the park to be kept on leads had been made following several incidents within the park. Following consideration the Committee agreed there was currently not a need for all dogs to be kept on leads within the park. Dog owners, under the Dangerous Dogs Act, were responsible for the actions of their dogs and all incidents should be reported to the police.

F23.19 Grounds Maintenance

- i. Football pitch remedial work: Cllr Ronson reported that the temporary fencing had been removed from the returfed section of the main pitch. The remaining areas would be regularly monitored and the temporary fences removed once the turf had taken.
- ii. Update on grounds maintenance contractors: Cllr McCall reported that there had been a useful meeting with the contractors and members of the Grounds Maintenance working group. The issues with strimming had been dealt with. Another review meeting in October would be arranged. **ACTION: Clerk**
- iii. AWP carpark fencing quotes: Quotes for metal fencing, all new wooden panels and new and used wooden panels for the boundary of the AWP car park were considered. It was agreed that metal fencing would be preferable as it would be difficult to climb over and required less maintenance. **It was resolved to accept the quote of £2650 from H A Phipps for metal fencing along the AWP car park boundary.** **ACTION: Cllr Read**
- iv. Path weed killing: Two quotes for a weed killing treatment of the main path through the park were considered. **It was resolved to accept the quote of £275 from Chesham Town Council to weed treat the main path.** **ACTION: Clerk**

F23.20 Sports & Recreation

- i. Colts football tournament: The Committee reviewed the impact the recent tournament held on 1-2 July 2023 had on other park users and residents of Aston Clinton. During the event there were complaints made regarding inconsiderate parking around the village and a complaint had been made by an allotment holder who was denied access by car to their allotment and who was rudely and abusively spoken to by one of the event organisers.

Following the tournament the organisers had emailed Cllr Ronson regarding several issues including parking and access by other park users. They confirmed that the event had been a success with 172 teams taking part and an estimated attendance of 4000 people over the weekend. Approximately £5,000 had been raised for the club.

The Committee agreed that a meeting be arranged as there was a need to ensure that the same issues did not happen in the future. **ACTION: Clerk**
- ii. Aston Clinton Football Club 2023/24 Football Pitch Permit: The terms of the permit were considered. A fee for the use of the pitch outside the permit times would be included at a cost of £30 per pitch per session. There was a need to increase the permit fee this was due to increased pitch maintenance and cost of living costs. **It was resolved to issue a permit**

for the hire of the main pitch from 11th July 2023 to 2nd June 2024. The closed period would be 3rd June to 14th July 2024. The permit fee would be £1605. ACTION: Clerk

- iii. **Aston Clinton Colts 2023/24 Football Pitch Permit:** The terms of the permit were considered. A fee for the use of the pitch outside the permit times would be included at a cost of £30 per pitch per session. There was a need to increase the permit fee this was due to increased pitch maintenance and cost of living costs. **It was resolved to issue a permit for the hire of football pitches 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6 on Saturday and Sunday mornings between 15th July 2023 to 2nd June 2024. The closed period would be 3rd June to 14th July 2024. The permit fee would be £2705.** ACTION: Clerk
- iv. **BG Fitness Permit:** The terms of the permit were considered. There was a need to increase the permit fee this was due to increased maintenance and cost of living costs. **It was resolved to issue a permit for the use of the area near the meadow football pitch for up to five sessions a week between 1st August 2023 to 31st July 2024. The permit fee would be £217 per month.** ACTION: Clerk
- v. **AWP security fencing:** Quotes had been received for an anti-climb spike guard at a cost of £13,400 and an anti-climb roller barrier at a cost of £24,000. The expenditure would need to either come from general reserves or be accounted for in the 2024/25 budget. **It was resolved that the installation of additional security fencing was viable given the risk to damage by unauthorized users. The issue of funding would be considered by the Finance & Staffing Committee.** ACTION: Clerk

F23.21 Events

- i. **Santa's Float:** The event would take place on 16th and 17th December 2023.
- ii. **October half-term:** Punch & Judy sessions had been booked to take place in the RKP.
- iii. The working group would be meeting in the next couple of weeks to discuss the above events and consider ideas for the annual village event.

F23.22 Park Keeper & Compound

- i. **Tractor/quad bike:** the Committee considered the health and safety issues raised by the park keeper regarding the reconditioned tractor. They included inhalation of exhaust fumes, risk of burns to third parties and loss of control. **It was resolved that the tractor should no longer be used and a recommendation be made to Council that it is sold and an electronic quad bike purchased from general reserves.** ACTION: Clerk

F23.23 Red Kite Pavilion & Churchill Hall

- i. **RKP patio:** Cllr Read reported that the tenant would be arranging for the patio to be cleaned.
- ii. **Fire shutter:** The downstairs fire shutter had jammed and a contractor had been on site yesterday to repair.

F23.24 Burial Ground

- i. **Non-resident ashes interment request:** A request for an ashes interment of a non-resident was considered. Mr & Mrs Woodroff have been part of the St Michael's church congregation since the 1960s. **It was resolved that given the connection with the church that the ashes interment application be approved.** ACTION: Clerk
- ii. **Path cleaning:** **It was resolved to accept a quote of £210 for the removal of moss and debris from the churchyard paths.** ACTION: Clerk

The meeting closed at 8.45pm

Signed.....Date