



MINUTES OF MEETING OF AMENITIES COMMITTEE
13 July 2022
10:00, Woolton Hill Church Hall

Chairman: Cllr Rand (Chair)
Present: Councillors Mr P Hurst, Mrs S Cooper
In attendance: Mrs Roots
Clerk: Amy White

1. Welcome and apologies

Cllr Rand welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. Declarations of Interest

None.

3. To Agree Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 13 June 2022 were agreed and accepted by the Chairman, Cllr Rand.

4. Actions from previous Meeting

| Date | Action |
|----------|--|
| 14/03/22 | To suggest to full council that Amenities be able spend up to £1000 excl VAT per item for any 'urgent maintenance' e.g. unsafe tree or broken play equipment. To take to Finance Committee November 2022. |
| 13/06/22 | Clerk to obtain quotes for the relettering and cleaning of the Elliot Cohen memorial. Actioned but waiting for quotes to come back. |
| 13/06/22 | Clerk to organise Finance Committee meeting in November- Not actioned |
| 13/06/22 | Clerk to investigate roller signs with new EWPC logo. Actioned - this is being dealt with by Cllr Bowden. |
| 13/06/22 | Cllr Rand and Hurst to pick out headlines from the APM minutes to discuss at the fete. Actioned - the fete stall went well and feedback has been saved in Amenities folder in Dropbox. |

5. Parish Field update

Parish Pollinator forum 02 July 2022: Mrs Roots attended a recent forum hosted by Hampshire Rangers. Cllr Hurst said that the money EWPC could access will likely come from BDBC. Sources of funding were discussed, for example the AONB. Her notes are included at the end of the minutes.

Outcome of discussion:

Need a clear framework of where to go now that we have the biodiversity habitat report.

Options discussed:

- Wildflower plugs
- Small areas to start off in the field, perhaps nearer the entrances
- Encouraging residents to think about wildlife corridors

Mrs Roots is keen to get involved with the project within a collaborative team approach.

It was decided that the Amenities Committee will lead the project.

Next steps: Organise a meeting in October with people already identified and Mrs Roots.

Action: Cllr Rand to talk to current parish field tenant regarding ideas.

Clerk to organise October meeting with volunteers

The field will remain closed for cutting and baling- it was closed on 08 July 2022. Signs have been placed at both ends of the field and gates shut with cable ties.

6. LIF Update: Woolton Hill Sports Club

On behalf of EWPC, the Amenities Committee acknowledge and support the change of scope of the Local Infrastructure Fund (LIF) grant for Woolton Hill Sports Club (Tennis Club).

This follows approval from BDBC for the scope change.

In 201 EWPC supported the Sports Club in their LIF request for £46k to update their drainage (£10k) and money towards a mini red court for children. BDBC awarded the full grant from LIF for the projects. The funding was based on high level design work and recognised detailed surveys would need to be performed as part of the approved grant and associated approvals by the relevant authorities. The grant included appropriate funds for a reasonable contingency (as agreed with BDBC).

On award the club gained planning permission for the mini court, but the detailed conditions for approval meant that the building costs were higher than planned.

For the sewerage project a detailed drainage survey of the land underneath and surrounding the sports club was commissioned. Once completed the results highlighted that the drainage underneath the tennis club was crumbling, the drainage in the surrounding area was complex and it would be more difficult to link to the main sewerage as originally planned. The resulting costs were much higher than planned.

After this detailed work it was found that the combined projects were higher costs than the grant awarded and above the contingency funds. To do both projects was not affordable. Working with the BDBC LIF team and sports body the projects were reviewed in detail and it was agreed that the sewerage infrastructure had to be prioritised to support the ongoing use and growth of the club. Not to carry out this work would cause serious problems for the ongoing operation of the club.

BDBC re-approved the original full LIF grant based on the updated scope and that it should be prioritised to repair, update and complete the linkage of drainage to the main sewer and

will now cost circa £30k plus a £16k contingency (recognising the complexity of the work). This approved investment also recognises the long term commitment by the club to the site.

Both the club and BDBC recognised that the mini court is not affordable from the grant awarded and will not go ahead. The club have agreed with BDBC that any remaining funds left from the LIF can be used towards improving the practice area in the club.

The work will go ahead over summer.

7. Recreation Grounds update

The Clerk has received a quote received from W Woolley for £735 to replace the gate, post and part of the fence in the WH recreation ground.

Padlock is broken on iron bar gate.

Action: Clerk to clarify quote includes fence before accepting. Order a new padlock for the iron bar gate and chain and link for boules court.

The picnic tables from the S106 monies have been ordered and installed by Woodberrys.

The last amount of the S106 monies will be spent on benches. Two benches will be added (potentially replacing the current ones, depending on costs) near the table tennis tables.

Action: Clerk to reclaim money back from S106 spend (table tennis tables and picnic benches).

Graffiti: the repairs/removal within the WH recreation ground have almost been completed. Cllr Rand is satisfied with the quality of the repairs.

The infant school will not be requesting a replacement school sign.

Lecterns: Cllr Rand is finalising wording for the lectern in WH rec ground.

Trees in the playground: Mrs West from the infant school has sent the Clerk an email confirming that the two ash trees identified on the edge of the playground have ash die back. They will be removed by HCC over the summer holidays.

8. Finance Update

Nothing to update.

9. General Maintenance

Brownies Corner: The chain has come off. The Clerk will ask the Lengthsman to repair.

Action: Clerk to ask Lengthsman to repair chain at Brownies Corner

Ditches in rec ground are looking very overgrown.

Action: Clerk to ask Scofell to check ditch on their next visit.

10. Items to take to next meeting

Masons Court ownership (Broadlayings)

Lectern wording confirmation

Actions from 13 July 2022

- Cllr Rand to talk to current parish field tenant regarding ideas.
- Clerk to organise October meeting with volunteers
- Clerk to clarify quote for gate repair in WH rec ground includes fence before accepting. Order a new padlock for the iron bar gate and chain and link for boules court.
- Clerk to reclaim money back from S106 spend (table tennis tables and picnic benches).
- Clerk to ask Lengthsman to repair chain at Brownies Corner
- Clerk to ask Scofell to check ditch on their next visit.

**Next Full Amenities Meeting:
Monday 12th September 2022, 10am, WHCH.**

Notes from Parish Pollinator Forum- Carie Roots

Greatham July 2022

Biodiversity project : notes of meeting 02/07/22 at Greatham – Pollinator Group.

Fairly informal meeting, led by Andy (?). Brief introductions from all attendees explaining what they were doing locally. Everyone else there from S/SE Hants.

The main purpose of the meeting was for the Countryside/Biodiversity representatives from HCC to introduce themselves and make it clear that they are very keen to help all villages throughout Hampshire to establish areas within their villages (and beyond) as wildflower / pollinator projects.

Base line survey essential (EWPC has done this)

Soil Samples useful (although base line survey of flora/fauna/trees would indicate general type)

There are many approaches to establishing and in particular managing wildflower/pollinator meadows.

Gabriella Poliakoff (Reeds Farm Empshott), a farmer involved with ‘Selbourne Landscape Partnership’. 1,600 acres between Empshott and Selbourne, over several farms, explained their strategy. It was suggested that a visit could be made to see how land is being given over and managed for meadow/pollination in farm clusters, with corridors into wider landscape. Several different approaches have been taken: soil scalped and new meadows sown from scratch, others managed with some additional planting, (less intervention). The results are being monitored.

The aim is to improve pollination and habitat (not re-wilding) alongside food production. This is obviously a large scale endeavour but could be a useful reference as to how to proceed. (There is a display in Selbourne – Gilbert White’s house - about this project).

What was abundantly clear from all contributors was the need for, and also difficulty in developing and maintaining, a workable management strategy, in other words, mowing at the correct time in the plant and pollinator cycle and removing all grass/hay from the site. (Essential to avoid enriching soil). The time at which this should be done might vary annually. In many cases, the practicalities of getting equipment (Tractors, bailers etc) to carry out this work proved to be difficult.

Some groups with smaller areas had a 'Hay Day' enlisting residents to help cut and clear, but in an area as large as the Parish field this would be impractical.

The question of promoting the projects locally was also raised: Parish magazines, Schools, Church etc. (EG: Ramsbury Estate has a sign near Littlecote on a well used path explaining their policy)

The involvement of the local community is to be encouraged, including the suggestion that homeowners take a more relaxed approach to lawn mowing as in NO MOW MAY. Reports from those who had not mown lawns described a noticeable increase in wildlife and flowers. These areas contribute to wildlife corridors beyond designated pollinator meadows, helping to link wildlife rich areas, both within and beyond villages.

David from HCC Highways explained the role of department with regard to verge cutting in Rural and Urban areas, sight lines, subcontracting etc. In some cases the apparent lack of co-ordination between (council) cutting and emergent projects has resulted in entire plantings being destroyed, cut at the wrong time. An enclosed field is protected from this expensive mistake.