



MINUTES OF MEETING OF AMENITIES COMMITTEE
12 June 2023
10:00, Woolton Hill Church Hall

Chairman: Cllr Rand (Chair)
Present: Cllr Cooper, Cllr Roots, Cllr Hurst
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 12 June 2023 were agreed and signed by the Chairman, Cllr Rand.

4. Actions from Previous Meeting

Date	Action
15/5/23	Clerk to agree date to meet with Scofell. Not actioned due to Scofell being v busy. Clerk will continue to liaise.
15/5/23	Clerk to ask Scofell to quote for a) improving the gates at both ends of the field and b) sourcing and planting trees for the parish field. See above.
12/6/23	Clerk to confirm specification of cameras with Stuart Box. Clerk will check the CCTV cameras weekly over the summer period to preempt any potential antisocial behaviour. See item 10.

5. Recreation Grounds update

No maintenance or litter issues.

At both Heath End and Woolton Hill, new signs have been installed with playground rules and tennis court notices.

Action: Clerk to ensure the hedge cutting at Heath End is in the Annual Maintenance Agreement.

6. Parish field update

Nothing to update. The chain link fence at Brownies Corner has been broken after recent HCC mowing.

Action: Clerk to ask for a contractor to place new dragon tooth posts at Brownies corner, removing the chain link fence.

7. Biodiversity project

The current tenant of the parish field is happy for the three trees planned to be placed in the field.

Cllr Roots suggested scattering a few wild flowers after the field is cut.

Action: Cllr Roots to speak to Penwood nurseries regarding tree options for autumn planting.

Cllr Roots to investigate wildflower seeds for parish field and the appropriate area for planting.

8. Boardwalk

Areas of the boardwalk have softened to the extent of needing approx. 5m of support structure underneath the boards.

Action: Clerk to investigate grant options and boardwalk material with the National Trust and Hampshire Ranger.

9. Meadowbrook-orchard ideas

Cllr Hurst has visited Overton orchard- see report at the end of the Minutes. He has offered to speak to the Gardening club to encourage volunteers to assist with the set up and continual maintenance of the area.

Action: Cllr Hurst to create advertisement for Orchard community volunteers.

10. CCTV- update on quote

The Clerk has twice contacted the local CCTV supplier (suggested in full council minutes of 26 June 2023) for another quote but been unable to arrange a date for the supplier to visit. Therefore, the committee agreed to remain with Cybertronix.

Ingrid Rankin, Chair of the WHCH committee joined the discussion, as they are investigating the access to their current CCTV system. Both committees are requiring the same system upgrade for viewing the CCTV.

EWPC will continue to use the router within the loft space and therefore pay for the joint maintenance fee for the 9 cameras that cover EWPC (5 cameras) and WHCH (4 cameras). Currently, the images that are accessed by the Clerk via a mobile phone are not clear enough.

The committee agreed to recommend the appropriate technology to full council to give the correct level of granularity and enhance identification of individuals on CCTV.

The technology purchased will also ensure continuous level of cover during any Clerk absence.

Action: Cllr Rand will contact Stuart Box to clarify the tablet and/or laptop that EWPC may use for viewing the CCTV.

11. ASB on EWPC property

Cllr Hurst has met with Cllr Falconer and CSPO Benjamin Esprit. The CSPO will meet with the PCSO and review the reported incidents. They will start more patrols in the area.

Since the previous meeting The Clerk has reported to the police 3 incidents of criminal damage with the Boules court (all with CCTV evidence).

12. Finance

S106 monies for play equipment: BDBC paid the full remaining amount of £1422.50. Out of this was the invoice for the two picnic tables of £1,156.40. This means that £266.10 is assigned from S106 towards ongoing maintenance of the S106 Play Equipment.

The roller blind to highlight the role of the Parish Council has been purchased for use by EWPC at events.

13. General Maintenance

The Clerk will advertise for a local contractor for small jobs required in and around the parish.

14. Items to take to next meeting

Normal meeting agenda items.

Actions from 17th July 2023

Action: Clerk to ensure the hedge cutting at Heath End is in the Annual Maintenance Agreement

Action: Clerk to ask for a contractor to place new dragon tooth posts at Brownies corner, removing the chain link fence.

Action: Cllr Roots to speak to Penwood nurseries regarding tree options for autumn planting. Cllr Roots to investigate wildflower seeds for parish field and the appropriate area for planting.

Action: Clerk to investigate grant options and boardwalk material with the National Trust and Hampshire Ranger.

Action: Cllr Hurst to create advertisement for Orchard community volunteers.

Action: Cllr Rand will contact Stuart Box to clarify the tablet and/or laptop that EWPC may use for viewing the CCTV.

Action: The Clerk will advertise for a local contractor for small jobs required in and around the parish.

Overton Orchard report

Overview

There has been significant development in Overton over the last few years. The last development had to leave a significant buffer zone between the housing and adjacent agricultural land. This is a large area (acres) and the bulk of it is set with wild flowers.

The orchard area is small, as they were concerned they would not get the community volunteers to keep it going. They planted it close to houses so that the volunteers could keep a watchful eye over it.

Orchard development

The BDBC ecological teams helped with both the wild flower area and the orchard, in terms of design and community involvement.

This orchard is different from the others I have visited as they have not used local varieties of fruit, but went for good cropping, disease resistant modern varieties. These were easy to get hold of and inexpensive - also did not need high levels of expertise. They used the fruit supplier to help advise on planting. This has been successful in terms of maintenance.

The council were nervous they would not get volunteers but they did a lot of work with the local schools and they get good numbers of volunteers.

The orchard is under planted with wild flowers rather than grass. It is only cut down once a year.

Bulk of the orchard maintenance is by volunteers but the PC fund any equipment.

They have experienced no vandalism or issues with the orchard, as it is looked after by volunteers who live virtually next door to it.

The wild flower area has had problems with tree planting. A number of trees have been vandalised and some died due to lack of watering. So many of the saplings have died. The developer is supposed to replace dead saplings but they have not.

The developer has also returned to try and acquire the community land. Apparently a constant battle.

They also wanted to put a plinth in position to explain the orchard. They went for the design below which was put together by school children (you will need to zoom in to read).

The area is well worth a visit and is on the source of the River Test circular footpath (approx 10,000 paces) - excellent route, but only attempt in summer (impassable in winter).