

CHURCHDOWN PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE AMENITIES COMMITTEE HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 31ST OCTOBER 2012 AT 7.30 PM IN THE PARISH COUNCIL CHAMBER

PRESENT:

Cllr Graham Bocking
Cllr Gill Blackwell (Chairman)
Cllr Roy Nutting
Cllr Audrey Ricks

Cllr Pearl Stokes
Cllr Stephen Wall (Vice)
Cllr Bill Whelan

Also present: Mrs Ruth Warne, Clerk to the Council (Minutes)

217 To receive apologies

217.1 Received from Cllr Barton-Ancliffe and Cllr Hodnett

218 To make any declarations of interest

218.1 Cllr Blackwell, Cllr Ricks, Cllr Stokes – Planning (Minute 220) – Members, Borough Planning Committee

219 Public Participation

219.1 [No parishioners present]

220 Planning

220.1 [The Vice Chairman took the Chair.]

The Clerk advised that the planning online facility through the Borough website was not available, therefore plans can not be displayed, or printed out.

New Applications:

4 Cherry Tree Close – conversion of attached garage into new kitchen, etc. It was agreed to defer this to the next meeting.

22 Tallis Road – erection of single storey side and rear extension. No comment.

Chosen Hill School – extension and alteration to art, and design and technology department. The Vice Chairman advised that he had been informed by the Head Teacher that there had been a public meeting about the proposals, however the Council had not been aware of this, and residents of Kaybourne Crescent were also unaware. Concern was expressed that parking space will be reduced, and it was agreed to defer this to the next meeting.

220.2 Correspondence

Confirmation from Borough of TPO on trees at Community Centre.

'Sweethaws' Pirton Lane – replacement hedge and trees have not yet been planted, which is now being dealt with by the Borough. Thanks were expressed to the Tree Wardens for chasing this.

2 Blacksmith Lane – extension. Both the Council and the Tree Wardens had expressed concerns about the possible removal of a Bay tree. The developer now advises, via the Borough planning officer, that the tree will have to be removed but that efforts will be made to replant somewhere on site or elsewhere in the Parish.

Glosvain regarding the proposed Incinerator at Javelin Park. Urbaser Balfour Beatty have advised that the ash from the facility will be sent to Peterborough, but it is not specified how long this arrangement would be for. Therefore, it could just be for a short period of time, and the ash actually be taken to landfill in Bishops Cleeve for most of the 25 year term of the contract.

221 Clerk's Report

221.1 Allotments. Some allotment holders have expressed concern about the change to the pricing structure next year which will mean substantial increases in some cases (although a reduction for others). After discussion it was agreed that the offer be made to split an allotment if the allotment holder feels that it is too expensive. Allotment holders have been advised to check the measurements.

221.2 War Memorial cleaning – there has been an offer via The Citizen to do this free of charge. Concern was expressed that the stone is worn, and some types of cleaning could actually do damage. A Member offered to check on the current condition of the stone and lettering. The Clerk will check on the type of cleaning which is proposed, currently permission for cleaning with water and soft brushes only has been given.

There was discussion and it was noted that the Council is responsible for the War Memorial and its upkeep. It was agreed to make this an Agenda item for the next meeting, to consider refurbishing, repairing or even relocating the War Memorial. The centenary of the start of WWI is approaching, ie, 2014.

221.3 Community Payback. There will be a meeting with the organiser on Monday, at which it is hoped to set a date for works to the Pocket Park (one of the supervisors has much experience in tree management). It is possible that we may be charged £100 per day. It was agreed to pay for at least 2 days work (Clerk to check the budget and agree scope of works with Chairman), and to see if they can lift the crowns on the trees in the Nature Reserve as well.

Lawn mower has been purchased. The Clerk has tried it out and it is very good.

222 To receive reports on Parks/Play Areas and agree on action as necessary

222.1 **Churchdown Park – skatepark** – emails have been received from 2 houses in Chesford Drive expressing concerns about the floodlighting. There was discussion and it was

agreed that these concerns are to be taken seriously. It is doubtful that the lights can be adjusted to reduce “overspill” of lighting. It was agreed to contact the Borough for a light pollution investigation and to wait for their report before taking any other action, eg turning off the lights earlier, or making a site visit to the properties concerned. The Clerk will check the electrics box on the field to see if a hasp/clasp has been put on it, and will monitor cracks in the skatepark, and advise Maverick of a small amount of damage. MUGA – nothing to report. Play Area – nothing to report. Pocket Park – wildflower meadows cut. Ornamental Gardens – shrubs cut back, Clerk to see if Community Payback can do works here as well. Community Orchard – nothing to report. Field – mini pitch has been marked, a Member reported that children age 10+ have been seen playing there. It was noted that it is the Council’s decision whether to call off matches due to the state of the pitch. Nature Reserve – grass cut, awaiting raking.

- 222.2 Chapel Hay Rec'** – non-invasive archeological survey by GADARG completed; revised quotations have been received for works to trees: £950 from one contractor and £1,150 from the other, both to include grinding the stumps. There was discussion, and varying views were expressed. The contractor who gave the cheaper quote is not available until the New Year. It was agreed that it is a priority to get the work done, therefore if the other contractor is available earlier, and can also help with maintenance of the hedge facing Station Road (eg, by splitting) to accept the more expensive quote. Clerk to action.
- 222.3 St John's Play Area** – the lower branches of the trees behind 17 Goodmoor Crescent may need cutting back, to help with grass cutting. These had been allowed to grow to protect the fence from footballs. Clerk to check.
- 222.4 Tudor Mead Play Area** – anti-rust paint purchased and used on slide. There is rust on the top bar of the swings, Clerk to investigate this, and check with Handyman re list of extra works (for all play areas).
- 222.5 John Daniels Playing Field - Play Area** – nothing to report. Pavilion – (1) PC99 has been applied to guttering/downpipes. (2) The periodic inspection of the electrics is complete, and remedial works are required, the electrician has declared that the installation is “unsatisfactory” and quoted £970 to do the necessary works; the building has been closed to users. After discussion it was agreed to get 2 more quotes for the remedial works. (3) Advice has been received from a consultant with regard to risk of legionella. He has quoted £450 for a risk assessment and minimisation scheme to cover all showers and water taps on Council property. After discussion it was agreed to contact Borough Environmental Health for advice and a contact for another quote. There must be a “responsible person” appointed for management of legionella, the Clerk stated that she is not prepared to be the responsible person until the risk assessment has been carried out by a competent contractor, any required works completed and a management plan put in place. Field – nothing to report. Application has been made for QEII Playing Field status, and there is a meeting in November with the Fields in Trust Coordinator to discuss the application and availability of grant funds, which are now accessible by virtue of nomination for QEII status (£2600 approx is still available for the County as a whole). There had been a proposal to plant trees (small leaved lime and oak) along the far boundary of the playing field, but this had been shelved due to the cost which is £2,956 plus £768.56 for first year maintenance (per quotation from Nature First). There is a donation of £600 towards the cost (the fee which the Burial Book calligrapher agreed to waive if it was used for tree planting).

It was proposed, seconded and

RECOMMENDED TO FULL COUNCIL – that the planting of lime and oak trees at John Daniels Playing Field go ahead (total cost of £3724.56), to be funded as follows: £600 from Burial Ground account, unspecified amount in grant funding from Fields in Trust and the balance from the Community Events earmarked reserve.

223 To receive report on Churchdown Park Projects and agree any action

223.1 Ponds.

The installation of the post and rail fencing is complete and has been partly painted with wood preservative by Cooperative Funeral Services volunteers.

The “rules” signs are ready to install (it was agreed to put these on the fence – the “gates closed” signs are to go on the gates). It was agreed to add to the “rules” signs “By Order, Churchdown Parish Council”, if possible.

A visit was made by 60+ children from Parton Manor Junior School to learn about land use in the park, the Clerk gave a presentation to them on the Churchdown Park projects.

The bulbs have been planted by the Coop Funeral Service volunteers following expert advice from the Herefordshire and Gloucestershire Canal Trust volunteers on locations to plant them. A Member asked for his objection to some daffodils being planted on the bank to be minuted as he was concerned that they would look untidy and stated that in his opinion they should be cut down before they grew. The Clerk asked that to avoid this type of situation the Council give her clearer instructions in future. A full planting scheme is awaited from the Canal Trust volunteers (who include a Member of the Friends of Churchdown Park).

After discussion it was agreed that the design for the interpretation board, proposals for bins and benches and boulder for the entrance be referred to a Working Group, but that a view from the Friends of Churchdown Park be sought on these matters. The Working Group will comprise Cllrs Stokes, Blackwell, Wall, Whelan, Nutting and Hodnett and they will take their own notes and do their own research. Cllr Blackwell will arrange a meeting date.

223.2 BMX Track.

A drain has been installed at the downhill end, which has solved the problem of pooling of water.

A price is awaited from Spencer’s for raising the bottom of the pump track and coating of running track (too wet to do the works at the moment).

The orange fencing had been taken down by Spencer’s but has now been reinstated, though there are now marks on the running surface due to use while the fence was down.

224 To discuss request for more play equipment at Tudor Mead

- 224.1** The request which was for monkey bars, gym equipment and possibly a zip wire had been received from some local children and brought forward from the previous meeting.

The Clerk showed an illustration of Wicksteed gym equipment including monkey bars which can be supplied and installed for £14,000 (plus safety matting at an additional cost). Members thought this worthy of consideration. After discussion it was agreed not to pursue installation of a zip wire as they are now made to be quite “slow” for safety reasons, and are therefore not as popular as they used to be.

It was agreed to forward the Wicksteed illustration to the Borough to ask them whether they would consider moving this project forward, as there is already some gym equipment at a park in Tewkesbury which has been well received.

225 To discuss hedge cutting

- 225.1** Cllr Whelan reported that Gloucestershire Airport may help with some hedgecutting at various sites, and proposed that he, Cllr Blackwell and the Clerk meet with the Airport Director about this.

- 225.2** The hedge at Chapel Hay Rec’ which borders with Station Road is leaning and needs attention (see Minute 222.2 above)

226 To prepare Draft Revenue Estimates for FY 2013/14

- 226.1** The Estimates (Appendix A) were tabled for Members and noted. The proposed budget is £2,000 less than for 2012/13. It was proposed, seconded and

RECOMMENDED TO FULL COUNCIL – that £10,000 be vired from the General Reserve to the Earmarked Reserve for John Daniels Pavilion

227 To receive and consider items of correspondence

227.1 To Note:

Street furniture brochure
Sportsfields products
“The Playing Field” – magazine of GPFA, and papers for AGM

227.2 For Action:

Emails from 2 properties on Chesford Drive re skatepark floodlights (see Minute 222.1)

228 Questions/Information

- 228.1** The Fireworks Extravaganza is on Friday. Cllr Whelan advised that he had updated the volunteer list, and read this out to Members.

The meeting closed at 9.45 pm.

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CHAIRMAN