

**Minutes of the Playing Fields & Open Spaces Committee
Held on 8th May 2017 at 7.30 p.m. in the Bush Room**

Present: - Anne Curtis (AC) (Chairman), Alison Peters (AP), Mike Webb (MW), Paul Caddick (PC), James Sumner (JS), Marcus Fry (MF).

Graham Smith (Clerk)

1. Apologies for Absence

None

2. Evacuation Procedure

Evacuation procedures were noted.

3. Public Participation

Mr Quick

4. Declaration of Interests

(AC) informed the committee that the author of the correspondence relating to item 6.1 is a family member.

5. Minutes of the meeting held on 6th February 2017 and Matters arising

5.1. **17.005 Resolved:** The minutes of the meeting held on 6th February 2017 are approved and accepted as accurate.

5.2. Matters Arising – None

5.3. Outstanding actions – (Clerk) informed the committee that due to a lack of response for quotations from contactors to lay gravel at the cemetery entrance that his preferred course of action would be to purchase and have delivered the necessary gravel to the cemetery and (Clerk) and any Cllr willing to assist would spread the gravel. (JS), (MW) volunteered to assist.

6. Playing Fields & Open Spaces

6.1. Water Pump / Common Land at “The Square”.

Clerk read an email received by a resident complaining about the laying of boulders at the land at The Square, Alveston preventing the ability of cars to park. The correspondence also mentioned the state of the footpath leading to the Pump / area under question as it was uneven and could present a danger to walkers.. Mr. Quick informed Cllrs of his involvement in maintaining the grass area and pump outside his house located at the square and the reason behind why the small white boulders were laid. (Clerk) informed Cllrs that this land is not within Parish documents as belonging to the Parish and it is believed to be “common” land (MF) raised concerns relating to the safety of the pump should it be the cause of an accident and enquired who would be liable? Cllrs requested that (Clerk) investigate ownership.

PF170508-01: - Investigate with SGC the registered owner of the Pump and land located at “The Square”, Alveston.

Action to (Clerk)

Mr Quick remarked that often he would see children sitting on the grassed area and drawing the pump. (AP) requested that (Clerk) minute the appreciation of the Parish Council to Mr. Quick for maintaining the area and ensuring that it remained an attractive area.

(Clerk) presented the formal SGC Footpath map for the Parish and pointed out that it appeared the land in question which leads to the Pump/Grassed area does appear as a formal footpath and suggested to Cllrs that he would approach SGC with concerns relating to its' condition.

PF170508-02: - Inform SGC of concerns from residents with regard to the condition of the footpath located at "The Square".

Action to (Clerk)

(AP) proposed that in the first instance (Clerk) should make enquiries with regard to whether the Parish Council is able to adopt the land and pump and bring it to Alveston Parish Council ownership. Mr Quick requested that he be kept informed of the process at all times. (JS) seconded the proposal and all Cllrs agreed.

PF170508-03: - Make enquiries with regard to whether the Parish Council is able to adopt the land and pump at The Square and bring it to Alveston Parish Council ownership.

Action to (Clerk)

6.2. Boulders Update.

(Clerk) presented an email from SGC relating to the outcome of enquiries to utility companies who's infrastructure is affected by the laying of boulders and their response:-

"Please see below a summary with where we are in establishing C3 estimates;

- BT Openreach – not affected
- Bristol Water – confirmation that their apparatus is affected and a C3 estimate of £135,000 + VAT to move their apparatus
- Wester Power – response still not received

C3 estimates are preliminary high level estimates provided free of charge. If the Parish wish to move forward with the scheme then we will need to progress to a C4 estimate which is a more detailed estimate that the Parish will need to pay the statutory undertaker for, normally at a cost of a few thousand pounds depending on the type of scheme".

Cllrs requested that (Clerk) forward, as a reminder, the maps and details of the utilities infrastructure located at Down Rd obtained through the C3 process from Atkins.

PF170508-04: - Forward to Cllrs the maps and details of the utilities infrastructure located at Down Rd obtained through the C3 process from Atkins.

Action to (Clerk)

Cllrs discussed the current position and agreed that a cost of £135,000 was prohibitive to continue and the cost of instructing a C4 estimate which could stretch to several thousands of pounds without any guarantee that this money would be well spend could be a mis-use of the majority of residents' precept.

(PC) raised the question of placing a hump or trees as originally discussed could be a solution. The committee agreed that the requirement to move to a C4 process would still apply and that the same issues remain. (MW) informed Cllrs that during a recent traveler occupation of land located at Yate that the travelers used chain saws to fell trees in order to provide the space they required to access the land.

(JS) proposed that boulders and any other similar solutions to prevent vehicular access to the Down greenspace, which accumulate costs as indicated, should no longer be considered. (AP) seconded the proposal and all Cllrs agreed.

17.006 Resolved: Boulders and any other similar solutions to prevent vehicular access to the Down greenspace, which accumulate costs as indicated on the results of the C3 investigation, should no longer be considered.

6.3. Recommendations – Play Equipment

(AC) informed Cllrs that she and (Clerk) carried out an inspection and revue of play equipment and concluded that the multiuse playframe at the Lime Kiln play area is becoming old and although passed the ROSPA inspection the integrity of the equipment needs to be continuously reviewed. Cllrs were informed that once again a small section of the platform had rusted through and requires

repair. (JS) recommended that a full metal sheet be used to make good the problem rather than a patchwork of repairs and instructed (Clerk) to obtain a price and to go ahead with the work if the quotation is within that allowable.

PF170508-05: - Obtain a quotation and instruct the repair of the platform on the multiuse play frame located at the Lime Kiln play area.

Action to (Clerk)

(AC) recommended that consideration should be given to the resurfacing of the surface throughout the Lime Kiln Play area and that she (and (Clerk)) were aware of shrinkage occurring to the soft surfaces at both the Lime Kiln and Cross Hands play areas and will look into solutions.

PF170508-06: - Investigate and recommend ways to prevent further shrinkage of the soft surfacing within the play areas.

Action to (Clerk)

Cllrs agreed that a planned approach to a revue of equipment and play equipment should be considered by the committee. (AC) confirmed that there could be funding opportunities for such equipment and would investigate opportunities.

PF170508-07: - Investigate potential funding opportunities for new equipment and play equipment.

Action to (AC)

7. Cemetery

Cllrs agreed that there was a great improvement to the aesthetics of the cemetery as a result of the work done by the new Grds Maintenance Contractor.

8. Grounds Maintenance

Cllrs agreed that there was a great improvement to the playing fields and particularly the sports pitches. (Clerk) reported that the Cricket Club was delighted with the new cutting and maintenance regime.

9. Correspondence

(Clerk) informed Cllrs that he had received correspondence from a neighbouring resident to the Jubilee Field complaining about the inaction of the Parish Council to maintain the hedgerow. (Clerk) informed the committee that he had replied stating that the Parish Council will consider a maintenance schedule for the hedgerow with the new contractor and action as soon as it is legal to do so (currently nothing will be done due to nesting bird legislation).

10. Website / Helmet

(AP) suggested that details relating to resolution 17.006 be passed to residents as soon as possible.

PF170508-08: - Upload details relating to the developments re installation of boulders on the Down Road green space onto Alveston.org / website.

Action to (Clerk)

11. Any other business

(PC) raised concern relating to the speed humps and feels this is not an effective solution to the issues these works tried to remedy. (PC) has observed that cars simply divert to the middle of the road to avoid the bump in order to maintain speed. It is noted that SGC did not implement table ramps due to cost and (PC) believes this was a mistake. (AP) did state that part of the issues have been remedied by the works as now parking on the pavement is minimal.

PF170508-09: - Enquire with (CC) re the schools comments relating to the new works.

Action to (Clerk)

Meeting Concluded at 08.29 PM

**The next meeting of the Playing Fields and Open Spaces Committee is on
Monday 4th Sep at 7.30pm.**