



**Open Spaces Committee**  
**Minutes of Meeting**  
held on Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> March 2022 at 1.30pm at  
Prestwood Community Centre, Nairdwood Lane, Prestwood

**Public Forum:** None.

**Present:** Councillor K Pither, Chair  
Councillors: A Hewett, C Bunting, I Lovegrove, R Pusey

**Also present:** Jane Hennessy – clerk, Tracy Georgiades – deputy clerk

**1. Apologies:** Cllrs: J Brooke, S Humphreys, V Marshall, C Ormesher

**Not present:** T Stevenson

**2. Declarations of Interest:** None.

**3. Minutes** The minutes of the meeting held on **30<sup>th</sup> November 2021** were approved at the full council meeting were signed as a correct record.

**4. Matters arising**

- Misbourne school grass cutting - £3980 + vat – will be paid end of month.
- Tennis maintenance and cleaning - £1,300 - and re-lining - £300 - and additional basketball lines - £350.
- Open Spaces planned expenditure: a summary of the spending for the year was given with notable expenses being: Buryfield half pipe, £4,775.00, and a Gryms Dyke wet pour replacement deposit, £5,785, total cost being £19,238.80 + vat. Open spaces are currently within budget and nearing year end with an under spend.
- Bucks Council have agreed all the locations for the Woodland Trust trees and are going to arrange for some of the areas to be cleared of vegetation. We have received no confirmation from Bucks Council team and AH agreed to contact PM to help progress. An alternate option is to ask for permission to use Missenden Walled Garden.

**5. Allotments**

- a) General Update: monthly allotment visits, the next scheduled for Monday 4 April. Please let the clerk know if you want to attend.  
Occupancy: the update on allotment occupancy and the waiting lists was noted. There are two outstanding rental payments at Ballinger who will be contacted by the deputy clerk. Ballinger has the most vacancies and Chequers Lane currently only one vacant. There is one vacant plot at Greenlands Lane, and someone is interested in it.
- b) Allotment Liaison meetings: we now have an ALO at Ballinger and potential ALO at Chequers Lane. The deputy Clerk to write to confirm Chequers Lane ALO.
- c) Allotments - Nairdwood Lane
  - **10b** – The plot holder still has not cultivated the plot or moved the polytunnel as he advised in the time agreed. The Committee agreed to a Notice to Quit to be submitted referring to his tenancy contract. A new plot holder for the plot would be responsible to clear the plot and would be asked to sign the Addendum to the Tenancy Agreement. At the full April Parish Council, a copy of the notice letter will be circulated for information.
  - **7b** – the plot holder had issues with aluminium and glass on the allotment surface. The clerk to write that following an allotment monthly inspection we notice some improvement on the allotment and thank him for that.

- **27a** Cherry tree branch down following Eunice – plot holder to clear from plot.
- **Plots: 11, 18b, 19b, 23b** deputy clerk to send encouragement mail.

### Chequers Lane

- **11b** – Large compost heap – green woody waste – no limit, monitor.
- **10a** - hedge uprooted by storm Eunice has shallow roots and is a border of allotment. Ask Walled Garden for a quote.
- To **plots 11a, 14b and 15b** send a letter of encouragement.
- **Plot 5** inherited a lot of large logs and branches and ex school material, plot holder will clear when vehicles allowed on site.
- **Plot 1** - deputy clerk to write to ask plot holder to reduce to half plot.

### Greenlands Lane

Two piles of material, one of wood. In the past requested that allotment to stop doing this as it is a habitat for hedgehogs, small mammals and insects, and a bonfire risk. Clerk will ring ALO and highlight bonfire rules: if going to have a bonfire must do it quickly and allotment holders do not have permission to have a bonfire on parking area. The rest of the space outside the allotments is shared community space.

**Plots 3 and 4** deputy clerk to send encouragement mail

### Spurlands End Road

- **Plot 4** - the plot holder has been on site and has made a matting runway and deposited bright yellow straw not ideal for an allotment. The willow tree height and hedge plants from her house are subject to restrictions on size. Agreed to wait till next inspection to review.
- d) Cllr Pither proposed to form a working party to review the allotment tenancy agreement. Cllrs Lovegrove, Bunting, Marshall, and Hewett volunteered to join. It is intended that an updated Tenancy Agreement could be sent out at tenancy renewal in September. New plot holders to receive the new agreement when approved by the council.
- e) The Chequers Lane access to the allotment via the archway is being used by parents, school children and dog walkers letting dogs off the lead in a food growing area. It is not a public right of way. A solution could be to consider putting a gate on the archway. The access was given due to illness in 2016 and may no longer be needed. The deputy clerk will initially contact and speak to the family of the house concerned. The Committee also recommend that the deputy clerk contacts the plot holders concerned with the Committee's intention to close the archway and then review feedback. The Committee also agreed to put a "no dog" notice on the allotment notice board and at the April Parish Council meeting the Committee will propose a new archway gate and keypad padlock for allotment plot holders. Regarding, the little alley way gate, which is not widely used, the Committee recommend fitting a chain and padlock using an existing gap post.
- f) **Spurlands End Road** allotment boundary issue completed. The hedge was moved a metre back.
- **Potters Row** - in February at a working party meeting on site it was agreed to meet up with allotment plot holders on a Saturday morning to arrange a meeting to discuss the height of conifer trees and footpaths. Deputy clerk to contact plot holders for a Saturday meetup.
- g) Monthly inspection dates, Monday, if possible, next Monday 4 April.
- h) Best kept allotment competition judging to be arranged either in late June early July weather dependent.

**6. a) Total Play Area spend** to date is £15,041.97.

b) Sibleys Rise is an area of approximately 40 homes. County Cllr. Jane Macbean led a recent consultation for additional play equipment which received just 5 replies and resulted in requests for benches. Six years ago, Sibley Rise residents refused swings offered as part of a HS2 funding. Deputy clerk to follow up with Cllr. Jane Macbean.

c) From the quotes provided for Prestwood Common Astro Turf Surfacing Abacus Playgrounds (£8,598 + vat) would be recommended to full council at May's meeting.

d) From the Sibleys Rise wet pour surface quotes Abacus Playground was again the choice, (£2,199 + vat). Recommend to full council for approval at April meeting.

A final check was recommended to make sure that all quotes received are consistent in detail.

## **7. Open Spaces**

a) Tree work, quotes requested not yet received, may be due to storms, will be chased up. There are 3 high priority trees, which require work within 4 months, 12 moderate priority trees, requiring attention within 16 months and 10 low priority trees, requiring attention within 24 months.

b) Weedkiller update should be provided for residents.

- Greenlands Lane –weedkiller not used on the central path or near wire. Hedges areas weedkiller used.

- Weedkiller details to be added to the Parish website

- CB would draft a website notice asking residents to please let us know if someone is weedkilling on Parish land and a weedkilling policy to pass to full Parish Council

c) Memorial Hall Ramp – SH meeting with contractor on 4 April. Step from Link Road to Buryfield car park will be reviewed when we have 3 quotes. We also now have Zurich clarification on PLI, the appropriate PLI for the job. Cllr Lovegrove asked for it to be recorded that working party members should be respectful and not personalise matters regarding another councillors or clerks.

d) Land at London Road – there is a need to decide a long-term plan for the land but in the meantime for grass cutting to continue but not the cutting of the footpath or hedges and to trial maintaining less and rewilding more of the path. Give school contractor notice to cut grass only and use the Parish contractor to check and do extra path clearance (trees and hedges) if necessary. Ask to receive monthly bill receipts. Recommend above to full Parish Council in April.

8. Cemetery – Update – The Committee noted the update, and that BC Estates was very busy, and DS is on sick leave.

9. Phase 2 of Prestwood Common regeneration – meeting arranged for 24<sup>th</sup> March at 4.30pm. It is a consultation with Prestwood community and users of the Common and Recreation Ground (which the Parish do not own).

**10. Any Other Business:** No.

**11. Date of the next meeting:** in July after meeting with ALOs.

The meeting closed at 3pm.