



Open Spaces Committee
Minutes of Meeting
held on Monday 27th March @ 3.45pm at
Prestwood Community Centre, Nairdwood Lane, Prestwood

Public Forum: None.

Present: Councillor K Pither, Chair
Councillors:, A Hewett, C Bunting, , R Pusey, S Humphreys,

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

OS22/01 Apologies: Cllrs: I Lovegrove, C Ormesher

Not present: T Stevenson

OS22/02 Declarations of Interest: None.

OS23/03 Minutes of the meeting of 9th June 2022 – for signing.

OS23/04 Matters arising

- Chequers Lane Allotments, damaged hedging has been replaced by Missenden Walled Garden
- Reminder to send to clerk specification for replacement access to Chequers Lane allotments via path parallel to Peters Close. Allotment holders would still like to retain access from this path.
- Ballinger allotments – quote to cut back brambles still outstanding – Cllr Pither to confirm scope of work
- Sexton’s increase in contracted works of 8% noted. (This is in line with contract.)
- Update on Open Spaces budget v’s expenditure for 2022-23 noted.

OS23/05 Allotments

1. **General Update** – the current occupancy noted. Vacancies exist as follows:-
Ballinger – 2 full, 3 half
Chequers Lane – 1 half
Greenlands Lane – 2 full
Nairdwood Lane – 1 half
2. **Potter Row – signage, self seeded tree, tall tree & hedge** – quote considered. It was agreed to recommend a maximum of £1,800 + VAT, as per Sexton’s quote. However, a further quote was requested for comparison.
3. **Allotment Liaison meetings** – Allotment Liaison Officers now confirmed at all allotment sites. Deputy clerk to arrange Allotment Liaison meeting.
4. **Best Kept Allotment Competition** – it was agreed to continue with June/July date for the judging this year. Cllrs Pither, Marshall & Hewett volunteered to judge, but all welcome. An email with suggested dates to be circulated nearer the time.
5. **Date vehicles to be allowed on allotments** – it was agreed to review this in two weeks time due to recent wet weather. A discussion regarding the width of the main track on Chequers Lane allotments and allotment holders blocking the track with compost bins, etc. This is particularly related to vehicle/tractor access for manure deliveries. It was agreed that members of the committee would inspect the allotments in respect of this issue further discussions would be had.
6. **Request for bees on Nairdwood Lane Allotments** – a request was received for permission to have bees on a Nairdwood Lane allotment. The request was from a member of the High Wycombe Beekeepers Association as they require another temporary site to house swarms, for occasional use, away from their own apiaries in

case of disease. They already have 2 sites for this purpose. It was agreed, in the first instance, to approach the existing allotment tenants to seek their views. Cllr Pither will report back to the full council.

7. **Cardboard on allotments** – it was agreed that cardboard was a permissible material for use on allotments.

OS23/06 Play Areas

1. **Update on playground repairs** – the update of total expenditure to date as £25,821.57 was noted. Although this exceeds the annual budget of £6,000, it does include Gryms Dyke surfacing of £13,500 and also resurfacing at Sibleys Rise of approx. £4,548.00. (It had been agreed by full council that Sibleys Rise could be taken from CIL reserves). The overall Open Spaces expenditure was still within budget.
2. **Prestwood Common - Astro surfacing** – the deputy clerk presented the sample replacement surfaces for the astro surfaced area. The committee requested locations where the samples are in use so that they can visit to assess if the surfacing is suitable. The deputy clerk will advise.
3. **Buryfield adventure play area – multi play – replacement plans** – the need for a project to replace the multi play area was discussed. Cllr Hewett will make initial enquiries on the type and cost of replacement units. The use of CIL reserves to contribute towards the replacement was also suggested.

OS23/07 Open Spaces

1. **Hedge cutting** – the update from Graham Sexton advising no cost increase, other than annual inflationary increase, to the new regime of hedge cutting primarily only once a year. Any areas needing to be cut on the grounds of safety would be cut more frequently.
2. **Prestwood Recreation Ground & Ballinger Common – grass cutting costs** – due to the Ballinger Waggoners taking a licence to cover an extra area at Ballinger Common, Sexton's revised costs will be as follows:-
Current cost £146.39 will now be reduced to £60 + VAT per cut for the play area only. When the Prestwood Recreation lease is completed Sexton's will charge £170/cut to include this area.
This balances out at an additional £83.61/cut (once the Prestwood Rec lease is completed.)
Prestwood Rec – hedge – there will also be a charge of £302.40/year for cutting the central hedge on the Rec side (previously paid by Bucks Council).
3. **Buryfield Fence replacement – quotes** – the committee discussed the quotes. The clerk was asked to check with Sextons, who provided the cheapest quote, what the timber was, how it was treated and what the warranty would be.
4. **Prestwood Common – gaps in hedging** – it was agreed to leave the gaps in the hedge currently.
5. **Car park – Prestwood Community Centre – surface** – it was agreed to recommend that work was carried out to the Prestwood Community Centre car park, due to potholes and puddles. The clerk was asked to obtain quotes.

OS23/08 Cemetery – the update on burials, interments, memorials and inscriptions was noted.

OS23/09 Streetlights – it was noted that 30 of the parish owned streetlights now had LED bulbs. It was also noted that the unmetered electricity supply contract was due for renewal at the beginning of June. The clerk will contact UKPN regarding a review of the unmetered usage.

OS23/10 Phase 2 of Prestwood Common regeneration – Cllr Pither advised that she has been approached with the idea of a play area for older children, which will be included in the consideration of future plans once the lease has been completed.

OS23/11 Terms of Reference – the draft terms of reference document was discussed and amendments suggested. It was recommended to refer this to full council for adoption.

OS23/12 Any Other Business – none.

The meeting closed at 5.20pm