



Open Spaces Committee
Minutes of Meeting
held on Wednesday 20th September at
Prestwood Community Centre, Nairdwood Lane, Prestwood

Public Forum: None.

Present: Councillor K Pither, Chair
Councillors: S Humphreys, I Lovegrove, V Marshall, R Pusey, T Stevenson

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

OS23/13 Apologies: Cllrs A Hewett, C Bunting, C Bains

OS23/14 Declaration of interests

Item 17/10 – Cllr Pusey – pecuniary interest

OS23/15 Minutes of the meeting of 27th March 2023 – were signed, as previously approved by full council.

OS23/16 Matters arising

- Brambles at Ballinger Allotments – Cllr Pither and the deputy clerk will be inspecting later today and will report back.
- A request received for Prestwood Common hedge to be cut back at the entrance by the scout hut, to accommodate mobility scooters. The annual hedge cutting is due and the contractor will be contacted.
- The footpath by Chequers Lane allotments – it was noted that the hedge may require cutting back on the opposite side from the allotments. It was agreed however that this is not parish council responsibility and any request should be logged on Fix My Street.
- A complaint regarding bonfires on Greenlands Lane allotment site. A response was agreed informing the resident that a new tenancy agreement for allotment holders restricts bonfire times to between 4pm-6pm and will come into effect at the end of September.
- Graffiti reported on the see-saw at the Buryfield toddler play area was reported and has been cleaned off by the clerk.
- A reminder for budget ideas for 2024-25.
- An update on the overall Open Spaces budget was given. At the end of September 32% of the annual budget has been spent. However, there are potential large costs in the second half of the year, such as playground repairs and tree work.

OS23/17 Allotments

1. **General Update** - the current occupancy was noted. Vacancies exist as follows:-
Ballinger – 4 full, 2 half
Nairdwood Lane – 3 half plots
Allotment renewal notices will be sent out in the next couple of weeks. The new tenancy agreement will also be emailed out for signing and returning, following the one years notice of changes given last September.
2. **Allotment Liaison meetings** – a meeting was held in May this year and a further meeting will be held in October.
3. **Best Kept Allotment Competition** – the judging is in the process of being carried out and the presentation will be prior to the November meeting.

4. **Ballinger** – prospective tenant enquiring if a shed and a large polytunnel could be erected. The polytunnel is requested to be size of the approximately a quarter of the allotment. The committee requested the dimensions of the proposed polytunnel including height.
5. **Chequers Lane** – Plot 1 – the tenant is reluctant to relinquish half of plot 1. This half has continually not been cultivated for some time and the tenant has been communicated with regarding this. The committee recommended that the tenant is given 28 days to either cultivate the plot, with the option being, if it is not cultivated then they will be given notice to quit on either half the plot or the full plot.
6. **Spurlands End Road** – plot 4 – Cllrs Pither & the deputy clerk will be inspecting this plot today and will report back with specific issues and proposed plan of action.
7. **Nairdwood Lane** – plot 28 – request to consider rental reduction to £25 due to size of plot. This plot has always been charged as a full plot. The committee agreed to recommend that the plot remains charged as a full plot at £30.
8. **Prestwood Nature** – request to use Greenlands Lane shed. The shed agreement is held between the parish council and a tenant and specifies that only allotment holders can use this, with agreement by the holder of the tenancy agreement. The committee recommended that no exception should be made for this.
9. **Chequers Lane** – gap in hedging – Cllr Pither reported that sapplings planted last year were still quite small and that the metal fencing, approved previously, should be put in place. Cllr Pusey will assist with transporting the fencing and securing it.
10. **Vehicle access on allotments** – it was noted that the planned closure of vehicles onto the allotments is 1st November, as in previous years this is subject to weather conditions and may be earlier if required. Any change to this date will be agreed by full council.

OS23/18 Play Areas

1. **Update on playground repairs** – the current spend of £3,918 of a £6,600 playground repair budget was noted. The annual playground repair work of moderate risk items – quotes are awaited, but likely to be expensive. The remaining items on the annual play inspection are either low or very low risk. The committee recommended reviewing these items once the quote for the moderate items has been received.
2. **Prestwood Common** - Astro surfacing – the tarmac quote was noted and two further quotes were recommended for comparison. It was also noted that this project will need to be advertised on Contract Finder to proceed.
3. **Gryms Dyke** – surfacing repair – following vandalism to the wet pour surfacing a quote of £1,411.00 + VAT has been approved under clerks delegated powers and Playground Facilities carried out the repair yesterday.

OS23/19 Open Spaces

1. **Surfacing for Buryfield / Prestwood Recreation Ground path** – the committee agreed to recommend the Breedon Golden Amber self binding gravel for the paths on Buryfield an Prestwood Recreation Ground. (This is the same as the existing path on Prestwood Common.) It was noted that Contract Finder will need to be used to advertise the project. The proposed route at Prestwood Rec was approved and comments made on adjusting the path intersections. The route for Buryfield path was discussed and it was agreed to put this for further discussion on the next full council agenda.

2. **Hedge between Honor House flats/Prestwood Rec** – update – the lease is still awaiting a completion date. The clerk confirmed that the parish council would only be responsible for maintaining the top and Rec side of the hedge. Paradigm will be responsible for their side.

OS23/20 Cemetery – Update – the update on burials, interments, memorials and inscriptions was noted. Bucks Council are providing an attendee at each interment to check required paperwork is correct. The clerk noted that since the new cemetery management team have taken over at Bucks Council it does seem that more work is required by the parish council. The clerks will monitor this.

OS23/21 Streetlights – the update was noted.

- A resident had asked for a streetlight on Back Lane to be checked for safety – Lamps & Tubes have confirmed that it is rusty but safe.
- A streetlight on Rignall Road bridge is covered with vegetation. This is on Network Rail land and a call has been logged with them for clearance.

Streetlight electricity supplier changed to SSE from 1st June 2023, they invoice quarterly and it is a one year contract.

OS23/22 Phase 2 of Prestwood Common & Rec regeneration – a multiplay equipment has been approved by the parish council, the suggested equipment is the same as that proposed for Buryfield, a plan was shown of the suggested location, but this will need to be confirmed with prospective suppliers. Contract Finder will need to be used to advertise this project as the expected cost is approx. £51,000. Bucks Council will also need to approve the project as the landlords of the Rec. Further regeneration ideas will be considered by a working party.

OS23/24 Any Other Business

- Quotes for tree work recommended from the annual survey are being sought
- Requests for any budget ideas.

The meeting closed at 11.45am

Date of next meeting: end of November