



Open Spaces Committee
Minutes of Meeting
held on Thursday 30th November 2023 at
Parish Office, Link Road, Great Missenden, Bucks HP16 9AE

Public Forum: None.

Present: Councillor K Pither, Chair
Councillors: A Hewett, S Humphreys, V Marshall, R Pusey

Also present: Jane Hennessy – clerk

- OS23/25 Apologies**
Cllrs C Bains, C Bunting, C Lovegrove, C Stevenson
- OS23/26 Declaration of interests**
Item 29.1 – Cllr Pusey – pecuniary interest
- OS23/27 Minutes of the meeting of 20th September 2023** – were signed, previously approved by full council.
- OS23/28 Matters arising**
- The replanting of the saplings at Prestwood Recreation Ground by Bucks Council (BC) is still outstanding. Clerk will contact BC to see if the parish council can organise the planting and recharge costs to BC, now that the lease is completed.
 - Email from Ballinger allotment holder asking for more dog fouling signs at the allotment. Laminated sign will be added to the noticeboard.
 - Email from Potter Row allotment holder regarding removal of maple tree with request how to proceed. Clerk to add to full council meeting after seeking advice from insurers.
- OS23/29 Allotments**
1. **General Update** – the current occupancy was noted. Vacancies exist as follows:-
Ballinger – 6 full, 1 half
Nairdwood Lane – 4 half
Spurlands End Road – 2 half
Chequers Lane – 1 full
The majority of the renewal payments have been made and the outstanding payments will be chased up. There are still some outstanding signed new tenancy agreements to be received. This will be chased up in the new year.
 2. **Allotment Liaison meetings** – Cllr Pither gave an update on the recent liaison meeting. Items which came up are included below for discussion. The next meeting has been scheduled for March.
 3. **Spurlands End Road – plot 4 – update** – following the notice to quit given to this plot holder emails have been received from the plot holder and her husband asking for the council to reconsider the decision on health grounds. The committee agreed to recommend to full council that the plot holder’s tenancy be renewed for half a plot only and for six month only with regular reviews to ensure compliance to the tenancy agreement terms.
 4. **Ballinger – request for fencing around plot** – the request from a plot holder to install fencing around his plot to deter deer was discussed and it was agreed to recommend that this is not approved. Suggestions were given for plants that may deter deer. Dog fouling is also a problem at this site and it was suggested that a Source article may be useful.

5. **Greenlands Lane – fencing – request for repairs** – it was noted that there were some repairs required to the fencing around the allotments. A quote is awaited.
6. **Spurlands End Road – request for project to plant fruit trees, etc on unusable plot at the end of the allotment site** – this was raised at the liaison meeting. Further information is awaited from the Spurlands End Road Liaison Officer regarding a possible project.
7. **Nairdwood Lane – bath – for discussion** - a recent plot holder has raised a query that there is a bath on their plot which is not a permitted item but which was there when the allotment was taken on. It has previously been used as a water butt and the tenants are happy to continue to use it as such or request that the council arrange for it to be removed. It was agreed to recommend that an exception is made for this item and to allow the plot holder to continue to use the bath.
9. **Manure Policy** – it was agreed that a Manure Policy would be useful and that it would need to include specific details for each site. A draft will be prepared for a future meeting.

OS23/30 Play Areas

1. **Update on playground repairs** – the current spend of £12,005 against a budget of £6,600 was noted. A further £15,578 is committed for the remaining planned repairs. The zip line is also in need of replacement. There is an earmarked playground reserve which is £75,000. However there are two multiplay units planned for Buryfield & Prestwood Recreation Ground.
2. **Buryfield Multiplay equipment – replacement** – following the recent advert on Contract Finder to replace the tower multiplay equipment, Cllrs Pither & Hewett and the clerk opened the five received tenders, reviewed them and they were scored against criteria. The top two tenders were presented to the committee and it was agreed to recommend the tender from Proludic at £51,085.67. Whilst this was the most expensive tender it was agreed that the equipment offered the most amount of variety in terms of play elements. Cllrs Pither & Hewett have also inspected different Proludic equipment at Chesham and were impressed with the quality. It had also been confirmed that Proludic offer an good after sales service with each item of the play equipment individually coded to enable all parts to be replaced easily.
3. **Prestwood multiplay equipment** – following the recent advert on Contract Finder to install multiplay equipment at Prestwood Recreation Ground, Cllrs Pither & Hewett and the clerk opened the four received tenders, reviewed them and they were scored against criteria. The top two tenders were presented to the committee and it was agreed to recommend the tender from Proludic at £48,408.71. Whilst this was the most expensive tender it was agreed that the equipment offered the most amount of variety in terms of play elements. Cllrs Pither & Hewett have also inspected different Proludic equipment at Chesham and were impressed with the quality. It had also been confirmed that Proludic offer an excellent after sales service with each item of the play equipment individually coded to enable all parts to be replaced easily and quickly.
4. **Prestwood Common - Astro surfacing – for discussion / tarmac** – a sample of the needle punched artificial grass was available at the meeting and the committee agreed that it would be worth pursuing further quotes for a tarmac surface as this may be a more appropriate surface requiring less long term maintenance.

5. **Buryfield zip wire – replacement** – the received quotes were discussed and it was agreed that a wooden unit with galvanised steel feet would be preferable. Further quotes will be obtained and presented to the full council.

OS23/31 Open Spaces

1. **Prestwood Community Centre – car park – repairs** – the additional potholes were noted and further quotes will be obtained to carry out these and other outstanding repairs.
2. **Great Missenden – bus stop – for discussion** – the committee reviewed the previously obtained quotes for the replacement bus stop, given the complexity of the Shires Oak Buildings quote, it was agreed to recommend the Sheffield bus stop from Littlethorpe of Leicester. A toughened glass window would be preferable. (Cllr Pusey however felt that no window at all should be recommended to help prevent vandalism.) The current quote is approximately £13,889 and the company will be contacted to obtain a confirmed quote to present to full council
3. **Tree work – residents request Westrick Walk** – the request from a resident to reduce the height of two trees on Westrick Walk was considered. The arboriculturist report does recognise that these trees are overhanging gardens and a conservatory, although no work is required for the health of the tree. It was agreed to recommend the quote from The Tree Man of £1,900 to reduce both these trees.

OS23/32 Cemetery – Update – the update on burials, interments, memorials and inscriptions was noted. Bucks Council are now carrying out the invoicing for the cemetery. They are also in the process of marking out the next cremated remains plots at the cemetery as there are only 4 remaining in the current site. The planned extension of the cemetery into the next field is also continuing with archaeology being carried out in the next couple of weeks. The committee were concerned that the amount of time being spent on cemetery work was increasing and have suggested the clerks record their time spent on cemetery work, perhaps starting in the new year.

OS23/33 Streetlights – the update was noted. There are now 32 out of 71 streetlights with LED lamps. UKPN will be contacted for a review of usage in, as the electricity contract is an unmetered supply.

OS23/34 Phase 2 of Prestwood Common/Recreation Ground regeneration – it was agreed that once the play equipment and path have been installed next year, a review of further improvements will be undertaken. Cllr Hewett advised that on the recent survey that the path and the play equipment were the top two items, followed by exercise equipment and an outdoor table tennis table.

OS23/35 Any Other Business

- Two further topics were discussed with the following outcomes:-
 1. The clerk to discuss with The Colts regarding the height of the hedges in Prestwood Common/Rec with respect to the effect on frost.
 2. A visit to be made to Greenlands Lane/Kiln Common to inspect removal of hedge.
- There was a request to schedule in dates for the 2024 meetings.

The meeting closed at 11.00am

Date of next meeting: TBA