



## Open Spaces Committee

### Minutes of Meeting

held on Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> February 2024 at

Prestwood Community Centre, Nairdwood Lane, Prestwood, Bucks HP16 0QF

**Public Forum:** One Spurlands End Road allotment holder.

**Present:** Councillor K Pither, Chair  
Councillors: A Hewett, S Humphreys, I Lovegrove, R Pusey, T Stevenson

**Also present:** Jane Hennessy – clerk

**OS24/01 Apologies**

Cllrs C Bains, C Bunting, V Marshall

**OS24/02 Declaration of interests**

None.

**OS24/03 Minutes of the meeting of 30<sup>th</sup> November 2023** – were signed following approval at the December 2023 full council meeting.

**OS24/04 Matters arising**

- Bucks Council have confirmed that the saplings have been replaced on Prestwood Recreation Ground.
- Ballinger dog waste sign has been displayed.
- Following the discovery that the allotment noticeboards have been put up incorrectly, Cllr Humphries has rectified three of them and will change the last two. Nairdwood Lane site needs a replacement lock for the noticeboard which will be ordered.

**OS24/05 Allotments**

1. **General Update** – the current occupancy was noted. Vacancies exist as follows:-  
Ballinger – 6 full, 1 half  
Chequers Lane – 2 full  
Greenlands Lane – 1 full  
Nairdwood Lane – 3 half and 1 garden  
Spurlands End Road – 1 full  
All rent has now been collected and new tenancy agreements are being chased for signing.
2. **Allotment Liaison meetings** – the next meeting is arranged for March 5<sup>th</sup>.
3. **Spurlands End Road** – plot 4 – update – following a request from the plot holder it was agreed to recommend that they can retain whichever half of plot 4 that is preferred. Cultivation and state of the plot will be regularly reviewed against the tenancy agreement. The remaining half plot will be requested to be trimmed by the tenant before it is returned back to the council. If the tenant is able to maintain a half plot in accordance with the tenancy agreement terms an additional half plot may be considered in the future.
4. **Greenlands Lane – fencing** – request for repairs – two quotes were considered, one for replacing just the rotten posts, approximately 30, at £930 + VAT, and an alternative quote to replace all the post and wire fencing around the allotments and for the middle fence £10,715 + VAT. It was agreed that all committee members should visit the site and this should be discussed further at the next Open Spaces Committee meeting.
5. **Nairdwood Lane**

**Gate** – allotment holders to be asked to suggest a replacement gate which is 4m in length and a maximum of 1.5m in height, for the committee to consider.

**Fence** – the gap in the hedge at the rear of the allotment site was discussed and it was agreed to obtain prices for the following options:-

1. Replace the whole length of the rear of the allotments with 6ft high fencing, cutting back vegetation where required.
  2. Repair with concrete posts only the 11.5m of fencing where required
  3. Replace fencing with post and wire and plant spiky hedge which is intended to grow over the post and wire fence.
6. **Potter Row - Maple Tree** – following the surveyor’s report which advises that age and lack of maintenance are the main factors for the wall and barn’s deterioration - the committee agree with the report and recommend that the maple tree is left in place.

#### **OS24/06 Play Areas**

1. **Update on playground repairs** – the current spend of £12,110 against a budget of £6,600 was noted. This is due to the large cost of the annual playground repairs. There is £15,578 remaining to be paid for the repairs and a further £16,522 for the replacement zip wire. There is an earmarked reserve for play equipment of £75,000.
2. **Buryfield Multiplay equipment** – update – the order has been placed at a revised cost of £47,906.49 + VAT as the grass matting has been removed from the order. The wet pour surfacing has been ordered at a cost of £12,027 + VAT. It has also been recommended that a certificate of lawfulness is not required for this item as it is permitted development and under 4m and 200m<sup>3</sup>.
3. **Prestwood multiplay equipment** – update - the order has been placed at a revised cost of £42,907.42 as the grass matting has been removed from the order. The wet pour surfacing has been ordered at a cost of £12,027. A certificate of lawfulness application has been submitted as this is a new installation.
4. **Prestwood Common - Astro surfacing** – for discussion / tarmac – further quotes are need to be sought for this project.
5. **Buryfield zip wire – replacement** – order has been placed and an installation date awaited.

#### **OS24/07 Open Spaces**

1. **Buryfield – Path tender** – the Open Spaces committee agreed to put forward Southern Landscapes as the successful tender for the Buryfield path project. This was following a working party opening 14 tenders and grading them against a set of criteria. Southern Landscapes achieved the highest score amongst the 5 councillors who graded the tenders. The cost is £40,604 + VAT.
2. **Prestwood Recreation Ground – Path tender** – the Open Spaces committee agreed to put forward Southern Landscapes as the successful tender for the Prestwood Recreation Ground path project. This was following a working party opening 16 tenders and grading them against a set of criteria. Southern Landscapes achieved the highest score amongst the 5 councillors who graded the tenders. The cost is £38,426 + VAT.
3. **Great Missenden – bus stop** – installation due March/April, pending permits and licences from Bucks Council.
4. **Tetherdown – hawthorn tree consultation** – the committee noted that this consultation is outstanding.

5. **Nairdwood Lane allotments – ash tree** – an ash tree is growing very close to the fencing adjacent to allotment plot number 5B. It was agreed to ask the contractor carrying out the council’s tree work for his advice.
  6. **Tree work – annual recommended tree work** – this work is now nearly completed.
    1. **Request for tree work – Westrick Walk** – a resident has approached the council regarding two trees to be cut back at Westrick Walk. The committee were advised that this tree work has already been agreed to go ahead.
    2. **Request for tree work – Westrick Walk/Fairacres** – a request from a resident regarding a tree close to his house was discussed. It was agreed to ask the tree surgeon if the tree could be cut back further, particularly near the aerial, when he is carrying out other work in this area.
    2. **Request for tree work – Collings Walk** – a resident has expressed concerns about the size of the trees close to his house during the high winds. The annual tree report does not list any concerns with regards to the health of these trees, it was agreed to ask the tree surgeon for advice.
  7. **Prestwood Common/Rec – Central hedge** – update – the Colts advised that they are happy with the height of the external hedges around Prestwood Common. They would be happy with the centre hedge being reduced in height and also the gaps made wider, however it was reported that there are stumps with the hedge which would not allow it central hedge can’t be reduced – stumps in the middle. Colts would like external hedges left the same height.
  8. **Prestwood Community Centre – car park** – the need to repair the potholes in the gravel was discussed. It was agreed to obtain quotes for two scenarios:-
    - Scrape out shingle and keep, additional planings to be added to level out surface, re-lay the shingle with existing and any new required.
    - Break up existing surface, level and add any additional shingle required and then roll
- OS24/08 Cemetery – Update** – the update on burials, interments, memorials and inscriptions was noted. Bucks Council have marked out the next ashes plots with markers and archaeology has been completed in the proposed extension to the cemetery.
- OS24/09 Phase 2 of Prestwood Common regeneration** – it was noted that after the path and the additional multiplay unit were installed further development will be reviewed.
- OS24/10 Any Other Business** – none.

The meeting closed at 4.30pm

**Date of next meeting:** TBA