



Open Spaces Committee
Minutes of Meeting
held on Monday 29th July 2024 at

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

Public Forum: None.

Present: Councillor K Pither, Chair

Councillors: S Humphreys, R Pusey, T Stevenson, V Marshall, I Lovegrove, C Bunting

Also present: Jane Hennessy – clerk

OS24/21 Apologies

Cllrs C Hewett, C Bains

OS24/22 Declaration of interests

None.

OS24/23 Minutes of the meeting of 9th May 2024 were signed following approval at the 13th May full council meeting.

OS24/24 Matters arising

- A request has been received by Prestwood Nature to hold an open day 12th October. This request will be added to the August council meeting.
- A request for an oak tree to be coppiced by a resident of Greenside was received. The parish warden will report on the request.
- It was agreed to recommend that the fee for use of Buryfield by the circus was reduced to £350 this year due to their flexibility with their dates around Lighthouse.

OS24/25 Allotments

1. General Update

The general update was noted. Ballinger has the most vacancies (5 full and 3 half plots). There is one half plot at Chequers Lane and Nairdwood Lane had 2 half plots. Spurlands End Road has 1 half plot available. There are four new enquiries for allotments which will be followed up.

It was noted that the tenant of Spurlands End Road plot 4A will clear all items from 4B by the end of July.

2. Allotment Liaison meetings – update – the August meeting was cancelled due to availability of allotment liaison officers. A new date will be arranged.

3. Greenlands Lane – Fencing

- **Consider repairs to fencing around allotment plots, including central fence.** It was suggested that the central fence separating Kiln Common from the allotments could be replaced by a hedge to encourage biodiversity. It was agreed that the post and wire fence could be left in place and young hedging plants, mixed native species, planted alongside it. SM&OPC, as the land owners would need to be asked for approval. Funding opportunities will be sought by Cllr Bunting. Long term maintenance costs need to be considered.

- fencing around the allotments themselves will be reviewed by Cllrs Pither & Humphreys and the parish warden.

- **Consider repairs to broken fence along Kiln Common side of Greenlands Lane site** - approval from the land owners will need to be sought if anything other than a post and wire fence is considered. It was suggested that some adjacent property owners were accessing Kiln Common over/through this broken fence. A letter was proposed to residents to remind them that they do not have legal access rights to

Kiln Common whilst acknowledging that some access is currently had. The replacement of the post and wire will be recommended to full council

4. Nairdwood Lane

– **Fencing at back of site – quotes required** – quotes for concrete studs to attach to existing wooden posts are outstanding.

-**Replacement Gate – update** – due to planning restrictions a 1m gate is all that can be in situ here without planning consent. This has been passed to the allotment holders.

5. Security at allotments for discussion - Chequers Lane has recently had some thefts from the allotment site, a bench was stolen along with some other items. The Committee discussed what could be done to improve security and it was agreed that allotment holders should only be leaving items on their allotments at their own risk.

6. Ballinger allotment ragwort and use of vacant allotments - allotment holders are responsible for weed and invasive plant removal on their own plots and a polite reminder is suggested to be sent to the allotment holders. The committee recommend that we ask for a quote for ragwort removal at Ballinger allotment site on the vacant plots.

OS24/26 Play Areas

- 1. Update on playground repairs** – the current playground repairs were noted. The moderate risk repairs have now been completed or are planned to be completed. A working party will meet to review the low risk items highlighted on the report. Cllr Pither, clerk, deputy clerk and parish warden will be attending a play inspection training session tomorrow.
- 2. Prestwood Recreation Ground multiplay equipment** – this is now complete and positive feedback has been received.
- 3. Prestwood Common - Astro surfacing** – further quotes are required for tarmac replacement surfacing.
- 4. Buryfield zip wire – replacement** – the replacement unit is due in August/September time. Southern Landscapes have advised that this can now be increased from a 23m zip wire to a 30m zip wire. The only increase in price is the additional Tiger Mulch required. This is at a cost of £1,736.00 + VAT. It was agreed to recommend this additional cost.
- 5. Buryfield Adventure Toddler Play area – resurfacing under multiplay** – two quotes have so far been received and further quotes have been requested.

OS24/27 Open Spaces

- 1. Buryfield & Prestwood Recreation Ground – paths – update** – the Prestwood Recreation Ground path is now completed. Buryfield is due to start at the end of August.
- 2. Tetherdown – hawthorn tree consultation – update– for discussion** – the committee agreed to recommend a reduction of 30% in this hawthorn with removal of brambles and ivy. This is the majority opinion of the adjacent neighbours (9 responses received out of 17 householders surveyed.)
- 3. Flag poles** – the committee were reminded to provide suggested locations for flag poles in Prestwood, Great Missenden and Hilltop villages.
- 4. Prestwood Recreation Ground – chain link fencing (Wrights Lane end)** - it was agreed to recommend that the wire is repaired in the fence that allows direct

access to the Recreation Ground and a letter sent to the property owner advising of the repair.

5. **Prestwood Recreation Ground – dropped kerb – update** – further quotes are being sought for this dropped kerb.
6. **Prestwood Recreation Ground – Fencing along Gryms Dyke** – this has now been repaired by Sextons.
7. **Open Spaces Contract Renewal April 2025 – for discussion** – Cllr Bunting to write an advert for council approval at the August Meeting. Open Spaces Committee to review all contract documents, the clerk will email a link to the documents. It is intended to advertise on contract finder at the beginning of September for 6 weeks. The Open Spaces Committee to review tenders in October/November and for council to award contact at December council meeting.
8. **Prestwood Common – Width of path – consider Community Payback project** – to consider use of weedkiller.

OS24/28 Cemetery – the update was noted. The staff and manhour costs of administering the cemetery should be reviewed. Deputy Clerk will provide an estimate of the work involved.

OS24/29 Phase 2 of Prestwood Common regeneration – update – there has been positive feedback for the completion of the path.

OS24/30 Any Other Business

Cllr Pither met with CY Ventures to arrange logistics for their events in August which includes parking on the Recreation Ground.

Following positive comments received about the new path and play equipment, it was discussed that these comments should be collated and posted on website – Cllr Lovegrove will monitor comments on Facebook

Cllr Bunting would like to contact Martin Tett regarding his recent letter to residents and his comments on glyphosate.

Meeting closed at 5.00pm

Date of next meeting: 23rd October 2024 @ 5pm