



Open Spaces Committee

Minutes of Meeting

held on Monday 23rd October 2024 at

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

Public Forum: None.

Present: Councillor K Pither, Chair
Councillors: T Stevenson, V Marshall, I Lovegrove,

Also present: Tracy Georgiades – deputy clerk

OS24/31 Apologies

Cllrs: C Hewett, C Bains, C Bunting, S Humphreys, R Pusey

OS24/32 Declaration of interests

None.

OS24/33 Minutes of the meeting of 29th July 2024 were signed following approval at the 5th August full council meeting.

OS24/34 Matters arising

- Letters will be sent to residents as the Kiln Common post and wire fence repair along the common boundary will start soon by Sexton Fencing
- Prestwood Rec Chain Fence is scheduled to start in 2-3 weeks.

OS24/35 Allotments

1. General Update

The general update was noted. Ballinger has the most vacancies (6 full and 2 half plots). There is one full plot at Chequers Lane and Nairdwood Lane had 2 half plots and 1 garden currently available. Spurlands End Road has no plots available. There are four new enquiries for allotments which will be followed up.

2. Allotment Liaison meetings – update –due to limited availability of allotment liaison officers the next allotment liaison meeting will be in 2025, date to be arranged.

3. Greenlands Lane – Fencing Update

SM&OPC, the landowners, have been asked for their preference regarding the central fencing repairs/replacement. A response is awaited.

4. Nairdwood Lane

- **Fencing at back of site** – the quote from Bowden was discussed. There is vegetation clearance required on both sides in order for the fencing repairs to take place. Quotes are required for the vegetation clearance and also the committee requested two further quotes for the fencing.

Further thefts – thefts have been reported at two sites.

Nairdwood Lane – the ALO reported theft of fruit from trees (possibly a large amount.)

- **Ballinger** has also reported fruit thefts.

A notice saying “produce is private property, and you will be prosecuted if caught” will be put on allotment noticeboards. Allotment holders will be asked to report to the police thefts.

- **Replacement Gate – update** – the height of any replacement gate is limited due to planning restrictions. This information has been passed to the allotment holders to make a recommendation. The deputy clerk will put the gate as an agenda item at the next ALO meeting for Nairdwood Lane to give input.

5. Water Taps - it was proposed to turn off taps on 1st November and on 1st November to stop car access. The project to find and map stop cocks is being progressed by the Parish Warden.

6. **Ragwort policy** - currently allotment holders are responsible for weed and invasive plant removal on their own plots and a polite reminder is to be sent to the allotment holders. Removal of ragwort on any vacant plots at the allotments is arranged by the parish council. The committee recommended to continue with the current policy which also includes checking for ragwort during allotment inspections.
7. **Feedback from allotment training course** – to be deferred to the next open spaces meeting.

OS24/36 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 has met and reviewed all the items highlighted on the report as low and very low risk and a plan of works prioritised.
2. **Quarterly inspections were discussed** – the Committee is satisfied with weekly visual inspections by Sextons and a yearly inspection by the Playground Inspection Company. Individual inspections are also made as required.
3. **Prestwood Common - Astro surfacing** – a third quote is pending for tarmac replacement surfacing and should be here for the November full parish council meeting. The Parish Warden will chase these quotes up.
4. **Buryfield Trim Tail – replacement** – Two quotes have been obtained and were discussed. A third quote is awaited. Due to the cost it is recommended that the decision is made by full council when all quotes are available.
5. **Consider surfacing under play equipment at Buryfield Adventure** – The committee would like more information and quotes regarding this.

OS24/37 Open Spaces

1. **Hedge cutting – once a year** –The committee recommended continuing with one cut a year, preferably in October/November after bird nesting season. A second cut may be necessary in some areas on safety grounds.
2. **Flag poles** – three suggested areas have been put forward and investigations are being made on the practicalities of these locations. A further update will be brought to the Opens Spaces Committee. Additional locations are welcomed.
3. **Open Spaces Contract Renewal April 2025 – for discussion** – the closing date is Friday 15th November midday. The tenders will be opened and reviewed on Monday 18th November at 10.00am. A minimum of two councillors are required in conjunction with the clerk. All councillors are invited to join.
4. **Prestwood Common – Width of path – consider Community Payback project** – a meeting is planned with the Community Payback team to discuss projects that they can help with.

OS24/38 Cemetery – the update was noted. The staff and man hour costs of administering the cemetery were logged in January and showed increasing hours. The work and time involved is increasing due to checking ownership of plots and organising transfer of ownership. There is a natural cyclical increase in winter.

OS24/39 Phase 2 of Prestwood Common regeneration – update – there has been positive feedback from completion of the path and continued monitoring of all playground equipment Prestwood.

OS24/40 Budget ideas – none.

OS24/41 Any Other Business – none.

2025 Open Spaces meeting will be:

Wednesday 19th February 2025 @ 3 pm – 5 pm

Thursday 22nd May @ 4pm – 6 pm

Wednesday 27th August @ 11 am – 1 pm

Tuesday 18th November @ 11 am - 1 pm

Meeting closed at 7.00pm

Date of next meeting: 19th February 2025 @ 3 pm