



Open Spaces Committee
Minutes of Meeting
held on Thursday 22nd May 2025 at
Prestwood Community Centre, Nairdwood Lane, Prestwood, Bucks HP16 0QF

Public Forum: None.

Present: Councillors: K Pither, Chair
Cllrs A Hewett, C Bunting, R Pusey, V Marshall
Also present: J Hennessy, Clerk
Not present: Cllr M Everitt

OS25/11 Apologies: Cllrs C Ormesher, C Bains

OS25/12 Declaration of interests

None.

OS25/13 Minutes of the meeting of 19th February & 9th April 2025 – were signed following approval at the parish council meeting.

OS25/14 Matters arising

- A request received from a resident of Fair Acres to reduce the height of trees in Westrick Walk. Cllr Pither and the clerk will meet with the resident to confirm the location of the trees as they are not all on parish council owned land in that area.
- A request from the Nairdwood Lane allotment liaison officer to send a reminder to the allotment holders to keep the grass mown around the plots.
- A request to remove the irrigation tubing around the Buryfield beech hedge. Cllr Bunting will arrange for the removal and let the committee know if there is any tubing left that needs removing.
- Confirmation that the vegetation around the streetlight on Wychwood Rise has now been removed by the property owners.

OS25/15 Budget Update

The update for 2025-26 was noted.

OS25/16 Allotments

1. General Update

The allotment occupancy was noted, with vacancies currently only at Ballinger, 3 full and 3 half plots.

2. Allotment Liaison meetings – a date that all can make is being arranged. Cllr Pither will send dates to deputy clerk.

3. Nairdwood Lane

- **Fencing at back of site** – order has been placed for new fencing with Jake Bowden. The remainder of the vegetation will be removed after bird nesting season and the new fencing will be installed shortly after.

- **Plot 14 – update** – the tenant has advised mitigating circumstances. A further email has been sent for an update and a response is awaited.

- **Replacement gate** – a quote for a gate which is the height of the hedge has been requested for the committee to consider. This may need planning due to the height of the gate. Alternative quotes will be requested.

4. Allotment Inspections 2025 – the recently planned date of 20th May has been postponed. A new date will be circulated.

5. Tenancy Agreement for Community Group to use allotments – this is outstanding. The community group have signed an individual tenancy agreement in the name of one of the directors. The National Allotment Society will be consulted for advice and a draft tenancy agreement arranged for approval.

6. **Chequers Lane – allotment hedge** – it was requested that the hedge is cut back along the footpath in Chequers Lane, as it is becoming very overgrown. The parish council are responsible for only the portion of the hedge adjacent to the allotment site. It was agreed that this would need to be done on safety grounds. The hedge would need to be checked for bird nests. The remainder of the hedge would need to be logged with FixmyStreet as it is not the responsibility of the parish council.
7. **Spurlands End Road – Hedge** – Cllrs Pither & Hewett have inspected the hedge and will now arrange to meet with the property owner.

OS25/17 Play Areas

1. **Update on playground repairs** – the update on the budget was noted. As were the orders that have been placed for a replacement trim trail at Ballinger and replacement surfacing under the play equipment at Ballinger.
The surfacing in front sports wall on Prestwood Common has been replaced with a tarmac surface. It will need to be fenced off for some time. In approx. eight weeks the surface will be painted and the area lined.
The clerk reported receipt of the annual playground safety inspection report. There is only one moderate finding which is the trim trail, all other findings are low or very low. The parish warden and Cllr Pither will go through the reports and prioritise the work needed.
2. **Consider surfacing under play equipment at Buryfield adventure play area** – this was deferred for a future meeting.

OS25/18 Open Spaces

1. **Prestwood Common – Width of path** – quotes will be sought for the remedial work to the path width.
2. **Streetlights – due for survey** – quotes will be requested for this.
3. **Potter Row replacement tree/hedge planting** – this item is deferred and the committee were asked to consider ideas for replacement planting.
4. **Prestwood Community Centre – outside entrance potholes** – Bucks Council have repaired the surfacing on the pavement outside the entrance to Prestwood Community Centre.
5. **Annual tree work – bird nesting season** – there are 7 trees requiring work, as recommended by the arboriculturist, by July/August. The tree surgeon A Ellis has confirmed that they will check for nests before carrying out this work. An application has been submitted to Bucks Council for the Buryfield trees as they are in a conservation area and this is expected to be approved before July.

OS25/38 Cemetery

The update on the numbers of interments and plot transfers for last year was noted. The work has increased and figures from the deputy clerk regarding time spent on cemetery work was requested. This is in order to review the workload and fee charged to Bucks Council as owners of the cemetery.

OS25/19 Any Other Business

- It was noted that the play inspection course was full and Graham Sexton would not be able to attend this time. The clerk has asked to be kept on the waiting list in case of cancellations. There is the option of the parish council running a future course – which the open spaces committee were keen to explore the costs of. The clerk will confirm the costs.

Meeting closed at 5.00pm

2025 Open Spaces meeting will be:

Wednesday 27th August @ 11 am – 1 pm

Tuesday 18th November @ 11 am - 1 pm