



## Open Spaces Committee

### Minutes of Meeting

held on Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> April 2025 at

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

**Public Forum:** None.

**Present:** Councillors: K Pither, Chair, C Bains, I Lovegrove, V Marshall, R Pusey & T Stevenson

**OS25/01 Apologies:** Councillors: C Bunting, M Everitt, A Hewett & S Humphreys

**Also present:** Jane Hennessy – clerk, Tracy Georgiades – deputy clerk

**OS25/02 Declaration of interests:** None

**OS25/03 Minutes of the meeting of 19th October 2024– November 2024 meeting.**

**OS25/04 Matters arising**

- **Window damage at Tetherdown, Prestwood** – G Sexton lawn mower threw up a stone and shattered a homeowner's window. Detail have been exchanged amicably are being dealt with between G Sexton & the homeowner. The PC have also made contact with the homeowner.
- **Spurlands End Road Allotment – Heath End Road side - hedge reduction request** from a homeowner – Cllrs Pither & Hewett and clerks will inspect and make recommendation
- **Wychwood Drive streetlight** – is overgrown with foliage and a request to remove the vegetation has been received. Cllrs Pither & Hewett & clerks will visit to ascertain the origin of the vegetation to confirm responsibility.

**OS25/05 Budget Update**

The clerk updated on the draft end of spending for Open Spaces budget for 2024/25, draft accounts are in the process of being drawn up. Big purchases this year include Paths and Multiplay, which have been listed as Special Projects and some funding was obtained. The budget for 2025/26 was noted as were the relevant earmarked reserves for Open Spaces.

**OS25/06 Allotments**

**1. General Update**

**Chickens on allotments** – provision for the keeping of hens or rabbits on allotments is legally permitted the Allotment Act 1950 Section 12(1). It was proposed and agreed that a draft poultry keeping policy in line with recommendations from National Allotment Association would be reviewed by the Open Spaces Committee.

**2. Allotment Liaison meetings** – deputy clerk to contact ALOs to arrange for a meeting in May.

**3. Nairdwood Lane**

- **Fencing at back of site** – Charlie Fox's quote was accepted to cut back vegetation and a fallen tree. The hedge cutting was not completed as birds were observed in the hedge. The committee agreed to defer the fence work until after bird nesting season, October, and to let the contractor know.

- **Plot 14** – the deputy clerk has contacted the plot holder to further request that the allotment is tidied up and cultivated. The last enquiry was also to ascertain if there were any mitigating circumstances. A response is awaited.

- **Replacement gate** – quote has been requested for a replacement gate higher than the current gate and with mesh to help prevent unwanted access. This will be reviewed by the Open Spaces Committee when received.

**4. Allotment Inspections 2025** – deputy clerk will agree a date with Cllr Pither.

5. **Covering vacant allotments with membrane** – this was discussed and it was suggested that this might be a costly preventative measure. It was agreed that due to high allotment occupancy that fewer plots are needing strimmed and that there may be budget for an additional strim each year.
  6. **Greenlands Lane - Tenancy Agreement for Community Group to use two allotments** – following on from the parish council meeting this was discussed. A tenancy agreement will be taken out in the name of one of the directors of PEACE in the short term to allow them to start cultivating. A deposit for each plot will also be held. The National Allotment Society (NAS) may be able to advise on specific clauses for tenancy agreements for groups like this. NAS will be consulted and a draft agreement for PEACE drawn up.
  7. **Vehicles on allotments** – it was agreed to open to vehicles with immediate effect.
- OS25/07 Play Areas**
1. **Update on playground repairs** – it was recommended to put a scope of works together for the remaining low risk works and to request for quotes.
  2. **Update on play equipment cleaning** – the recent play equipment cleaning has good feedback, to the extent that a comment was made that it was thought to be new equipment. This was noted and a suggestion to add this feedback to the website.
  3. **Consider surfacing under play equipment at Buryfield adventure play area – for discussion** - deferred until the next meeting.
- OS25/08 Open Spaces**
1. **Prestwood Common – width of path** – quotes were requested for work on the edging of the path to remove the creep of the grass which has narrowed the path.
  2. **Streetlights – due for survey – quotes to be obtained** – an inspection of the streetlight columns is due this year, quotes will be sought. The electricity contract is due to expire in September.
  3. **Potter Row replacement tree/hedge planting** – this will be considered further at the next meeting.
  4. **Prestwood Community Centre – outside entrance potholes** – these have been logged with Bucks Council on FixMyStreet. Southern Landscapes' quote has been accepted for the car park potholes and a start date is pending.
- OS25/09 Cemetery** – the increase in work was discussed and it was suggested to review the hours and approach Bucks Council for an increase in management fees. The deputy clerk is keeping a log, but the feeling is that the work has increased. This will be report to the full council with a recommendation for the increase.
- OS25/10 Any Other Business**

**Tracy Georgiades Deputy Clerk to the Council**

**14th April 2025**

**2025 Open Spaces meeting will be:**

Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> May @ 4pm – 6 pm

Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> August @ 11 am – 1 pm

Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> November @ 11 am - 1 pm