

HENSTRIDGE PARISH COUNCIL

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Draft Minutes of the Open Spaces Committee meeting held on Thursday 27th February 2020

Present: Carolyn Nichols (Chair), David Nichols, Ken Courtenay and Barry Howlett

There were no members of the public in attendance.

1. Apologies for absence.

Received from John Graham and Peter Crocker

2. Declarations of Interest.

None received

3. Public Participation

There were no members of the public in attendance

4. To approve as a correct record the minutes of the previous meeting held on 30th October 2019.

RESOLVED: It was proposed and agreed to approve the minutes as presented.

5. Ranger Scheme: To receive an update on the Ranger Scheme:

The Clerk updated on the rangers duties over the past month, it was agreed to review duties and the scheme at the end of the three month trial period, and it was felt by committee that he was doing a good job. The Clerk was asked to give a few further duties to the Ranger including cleaning road signs, village gates and hedge trimming.

6. Allotments: To receive a report from the Parish Council allotments representative and arrange meeting to review allotments Tenancy Agreement:

Barry Howlett reported that two new tenants had taken on plots at the allotments and the Clerk was in the process of updating records and arranging paperwork. It was agreed to weed kill and cover with black plastic one plot and allow a new tenant to start in June. It was agreed that the Clerk would arrange a meeting with Carolyn Nichols and Barry Howlett to consider a new Tenancy Agreement and Rules and Regulations in readiness to be distributed with tenancy renewals at the end of March. Carolyn Nichols reported that raised beds were being arranged for the allotments free of charge. It was agreed to gain quotations for two new water troughs for the allotments.

7. Talking Bench: To consider options for a Talking Bench in the recreation ground:

Carolyn Nichols reported that she and the Clerk had met with a resident who is happy for his wife's memorial bench to be used as the Talking Bench. Permission was granted for Carolyn quotes to be gained for a wrought iron structure at the back of the bench with the Talking Bench title.

8. Cemetery: To arrange meeting with PEG to consider cemetery improvements:

Barry Howlett reported that PEG is undertaking some improvements at the cemetery so it was felt a meeting was not necessary. It was agreed to consider improvements to the cemetery wall within the Council's upcoming Action Plan.

9. Cemetery Management System: To consider quotations for Cemetery Management Systems:

The Clerk reported that she had been investigating options for a computerised Cemetery Management System and supplied information about quotations obtained and an online demo she and Carolyn Nichols had received. Due to the quotations received and the idea not being within the budget it was agreed to take this suggestion to full council and obtain a further demo of another management system. The Clerk was also requested to seek guidance from the local funeral director. David Nichols suggested the Council may wish to take over management of the closed churchyard from SSDC. It was agreed to make contact with SSDC to discuss and add to the upcoming Action Plan.

10. Oak Vale Wood: To consider drainage and email from resident regarding Oak Vale Wood: Committee members considered the email and agreed that nothing could be conducted during the current wet weather. However, it was agreed that the whole area required reengineering and it was resolved to seek quotations for improvements.

11. Action Plan: To consider a long term action plan for Open Spaces: Carolyn Nichols shared ideas for a five year action plan for the Open Spaces Committee. It was agreed that the Clerk would prepare a draft document containing these ideas for the full council meeting. Barry Howlett suggested the committee consider the Climate Emergency and how the village could be more proactive; ideas included further tree planting, recycling, educating the local community and considering alternative energy supplies. The Committee discussed where the 50 trees received from SSDC are to be planted, Carolyn Nichols suggested the committee find out what each tree is prior to planting and then options would be considered.

12. Hedge Cutting: To review recent hedge cutting and consider options for next year: The committee discussed concerns raised about the recent hedge cutting and it was acknowledged that similar issues had arisen in previous years. It was agreed that better supervision and signage should be undertaken next year with the Ranger asked to clear any debris and cut off any sharp edges.

13. Play Area: To consider gaining proposals and designs for new play area: The Clerk suggested she proceed with gaining quotations and designs for a new improved and modernised play area and consider grant funding options. Permission was granted for the Clerk to proceed with this. David Nichols suggested that the Clerk also gain designs for a slightly bigger play area and Ken Courtenay commented a further play area may be required at the other end of the village with the village expanding.

14. BMX Pump Track: To consider improvements to the fencing at the BMX Pump Track: Carolyn Nichols updated the committee on email from John Graham which suggested the temporary fence be made good with some wire put at the bottom to stop dogs running through. Ken Courtenay suggested some shrubbery be planted. It was agreed to proceed with these improvements and for John Graham to conduct the remedial work on the fence as agreed.

15. To receive reports from the Clerk on: Allotments, Recreation Ground, Burial Ground, Fly Tipping, Highways issues and grit bins:
No reports required as areas had been considered during the meeting. However, the Clerk was requested to ask if the Ranger would be able to clear the hardened grit in the grit bins. Barry Howlett suggested the Council consider options to help with the parking issues in Yenston.

16. Date of the next meeting: To confirm the date of the next Open Spaces Committee meeting: The date of the next Open Spaces Committee meeting was confirmed as Thursday 23rd April

The meeting closed at 19.47