

BRAMHOPE & CARLTON PARISH COUNCIL
MEETING OF THE VILLAGE MAINTENANCE COMMITTEE
Tuesday 16th July 2019, 6.00pm at the Bramhope Village Hall

Present:

Cllr Alan Anslow (Chair)
Cllr Hilary Harris
Cllr Diane Fox
Cllr David Bryant

1. To receive apologies

Apologies received from Nicola Woodward, Clerk, Cllr Simon Cooper & Cllr Lesley Hoff

2. To disclose or draw attention to any disclosable pecuniary interests

There were no declarations of interest

3. To receive information on the ongoing issues and decide further action where necessary

3.1 To receive an update and to discuss the re-siting of the Carlton noticeboard

The noticeboard has been re-sited. Former Councillor Anna Hollings has been in touch to thank the PC for re-instating it. The Clerk will order a plaque for it in the coming weeks.

3.2 To receive an update on the replacement paving at the Puritan Chapel.

The paving flags have been replaced and grouted. A revised quote for re-grouting the remainder of the path is outstanding but the Clerk has been advised that re-pointing is not recommended as the path is very level and water will not, therefore run off it. This will exacerbate the slippery nature of the paving whereas, without grouting, the water can be absorbed between the flags. It was AGREED by all not to grout the flags.

3.3 To receive an update regarding re-pointing at the Puritan Chapel and decide further action

The Clerk has submitted a funding request to assist with half the cost of the re-pointing from the Outer North West Committee Well-being Fund. Works can't commence until the funding request has been approved/declined.

Cllr Fox and the Clerk have looked at other organisations for funding, however neither has found any that would support the work on the Chapel as it does not fulfil some of the basic criteria, such as it is not used as a regular place of worship. The National Lottery Heritage Funding has confirmed that it would not support an application for this type of work. Cllr Anslow has looked at the Historic England website regarding funding and suggested that this be investigated further if the application to the Well-being fund fails.

A discussion regarding the three quotes received will take place at a subsequent meeting.

3.4 To receive an update regarding the replacement steps and slide at The Knoll

The Clerk lottery funding application has been submitted. The outcome should be known early September. The information provided by Playscheme was considered. It was suggested that any decision be deferred to the next meeting.

3.5 To receive an update on the replacement bin for the recreation ground.

The replacement bin has arrived and is in the Pavilion waiting to be sited next to the shelter. The old bin needs removing.

3.6 To receive information regarding acknowledgement plaques for areas maintained by Bramhope in Bloom

The plaques have been received and given to Bramhope in Bloom to put in place prior to judging day.

3.7 To receive information regarding security measures for the Puritan Chapel and decide further action.

A discussion took place about the possibility of installing some security cameras at the chapel. More information was requested for the next meeting.

3.8 To receive an update regarding the surfacing at the playground and decide further action.

Concerns have been raised regarding the condition of the surfacing at the playground, particularly on one of the joins. The Clerk has been to inspect it and it does seem to be marginally worse than it was 4 weeks ago. Cllr Harris has also carried out inspections of The Knoll in lieu of the Village Caretaker, due to his absence on ill health. Her findings were discussed and it was decided that no patching of the surface should take place pending the RoSPA inspection in August. It was also AGREED that a meeting of the Playground Working Party should be called once the recommendations of the RoSPA inspection are known and that they should carry out a detailed inspection of The Knoll, to include all furniture and litter bins as well as the surfacing and equipment. Any recommendations should then be made to VMC for appropriate action.

4. To receive a report on additional work completed since 11th June 2019

Strimmed Jubilee Copse footpath

The Village Caretaker has concentrated on getting things “up to scratch” prior to going off on sick leave.

5. To receive a report from BiB:

Judging day appeared to go well although one judged asked about the grass cutting and noted that the edges are not trimmed;

One judge questioned why there are no other planters on The Cross and felt that there was scope to place some there.

The bug hotel has been sited on Jubilee Copse and planting of wild flowers is ongoing. A request was made for a permanent, discreet low fence to be installed to prevent access to the area and possible vandalism. It was AGREED that a low fence would not deter access to the area as it could be stepped over and that, in due course, when the area has become established, the canes should be removed. It was further AGREED that VMC would prefer an access to the bug hotel to allow closer inspection, especially for children. In due course a permanent sign indicating the area as a wild flower area may be appropriate.

6. Matters arising

6.1. To receive the Annual Property Inspection Report and decide further action.

It was AGREED that the Clerk should refer any matters that require action to the Temporary Village Caretaker and that he should undertake any duties as and when time allows subject to his other general duties.

6.2. To discuss a request from Bramhope in Bloom for financial assistance for planters at the Primary School.

It was not thought that additional funding for the planters was appropriate.

6.3. To receive a quotation for a replacement infant swing, swing hangers and chains and decide further action.

The infant swing has now been removed.

The swing hangers and chains show signs of wear and tear.

Some of the spire fixings would benefit from being replaced.

It was AGREED that the quotation be accepted.

6.4. To receive information regarding gates for the Puritan Chapel and decide further action.

A quote has been received for a gate on the front of the Puritan Chapel.

It was recommended that the Clerk should speak with the conservation officer about the designs that have been provided and that the gate needs to have an inclusive lock rather than a padlock.

6.5. To receive information regarding a request to cut back the laurels at The Knoll and decide further action.

A discussion took place regarding a request to cut back the laurels at The Knoll.

It was AGREED that the Parish Council meets half the cost and carries out the work as long as the laurel is reduced considerably so that it can be easily maintained by the Village Caretaker in the future.

7. To receive Parish Council Properties exception reports.

- a. *Puritan Chapel & Well site*
- b. *Memorial garden*
- c. *Bus shelters*
- d. *Notice-boards*
- e. *Carlton Water Hole & Carlton*
- f. *Car park*
- g. *Jubilee Copse*

(i.g.i) A resident has asked if hedging could be planted at the edge of the copse to help absorb some of the road noise from the A660: no work to Jubilee Copse can be undertaken until the Highways works associated with the Miller's site is undertaken. As the new roundabout will divert traffic further away from The Poplars and there is a recommendation that standard trees be planted on the new roundabout, this may change the acoustics to the benefit of the resident who has complained.

(i.g.ii) The re-routing and widening of the footpath should take place w/c 15th July: at the time of the meeting this had not happened but now has.

(i.g.iii) Suggestion that a sign be purchased to indicated the wild flower area on the copse. AGREED.

(i.g.iv) A discussion took place regarding the bug hotel. It was AGREED that a planing application is unnecessary.

h. *Cemetery:*

the memorial plaques recently purchased have been removed and sent for treatment to avoid the tarnishing which had become evident.

i. *Red telephone boxes:*

it was noted that a large bag of donated books had been left in the box on Breary Lane and that there needs to be a check on how regularly the Book Club deal with donations.

j. *bins*

k. *Ginnels/Footpaths*

8. To receive Recreation Properties report

l. *The Knoll : see 3.8*

i. *The Recreation Ground*

- (i) To receive an update on the refurbishment of the Pavilion and decide next steps: Cllr Anslow has had difficulty getting a third quote for the required work and recommends that work to get the pump and pipework flowing should be undertaken and then address the refurbishment. Cllr Bryant has been investigating the installation of solar power for the pavilion. This may be viable but a detailed structural report and planning permission would be required. At a cost of £5,900 this would save 1800 kw hours per year and grants may be available. It was AGREED to defer any decision until the Clerk provides a detailed breakdown of electricity costs for comparison.
- (ii) The cricketers are not cleaning up after themselves and obviously wear their boots in the kitchen which is left dirty as a result. If it is in their agreement that they clean the floors, then they should be reminded of their responsibilities.

9. **To identify any new jobs and agree budget:** Cllr Fox referred to the constant parking of vehicles alongside the noticeboard near to Tredgold shops and suggested that Highways be approached to see if they would agree to a couple of planters being installed to the front of the noticeboard to prevent this. If it was agreed, Bramhope in Bloom could be asked if they wished to plant and maintain them.

Cllr Fox left the meeting at 7.15 pm

10. **Any other business**

10.1 To discuss the date of the September and October meetings and decide further action

The Clerk will be absent on 10th September so suggested moving the September meeting to 3rd September and also may also be away on the 8th October so suggested changing that one the 15th October. It was suggested that the Clerk email members of the VMC regarding their preferences for dates in view of the fact that only 3 Cllrs were present at this time.

10.2 Update on the tree works required following the tree survey.

The Clerk has not had the opportunity to submit a Planning application for the trees works identified on the recent tree survey or sought any quotes for the works.

11. To arrange the date of next meeting

The date of the next meeting will be Tuesday 13th August 2019 at 6.00pm

The meeting closed at 7.25 pm

Minutes by Hilary Harris

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