

BRAMHOPE & CARLTON PARISH COUNCIL

MEETING OF THE VILLAGE MAINTENANCE COMMITTEE

Tuesday 3rd September 2019, 6.00pm at the Bramhope Village Hall

Present:

Cllr Simon Cooper (Chair)
Cllr Hilary Harris
Cllr Diane Fox
Cllr David Bryant

Nicola Woodward – Clerk
Juris Dambitis – Village Caretaker

1. To receive apologies

Apologies received from Cllr Alan Anslow & 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 regarding re-pointing at the Puritan Chapel and decide further action where necessary.

A discussion took place regarding the three quotes received for the repointing at the Puritan Chapel. It was AGREED that VMC would recommend to FPC that LCC Restorations should undertake the works.

A discussion took place regarding a grant application to the ONW Wellbeing Fund. It was AGREED that the Clerk will submit an application for funding towards the costs following advice from Cllr Flynn.

3.2 To receive an update on the replacement slide and steps at The Knoll

The grant from the National Lottery for £10,000 has been received.

The Clerk has received a quote for the replacement of the steps. The quote and the two previous quotes were discussed.

The Clerk highlighted the issues that have been experienced in finding companies that are able to provide a bespoke solution for the slide as most companies only offer off the peg solutions. The site for the slide is unique in gradient and size.

It was AGREED that a discussion would take place between the Clerk, the Chair of the PC, Vice Chair of the PC, Chair of VMC and Chair of FWG to determine whether a third quote is required for the project.

It was AGREED that VMC will recommend to FPC that the steps are completed by The Conservation Volunteers.

Subject to the outcome of discussions regarding a third quote VMC recommends that the proposal for Phase 1 of the replacement slide offered by Playscheme should be accepted.

Both agreements are subject to receiving appropriate planning permission.

VMC recommends to Finance Working Group and Full Parish Council that an application to use £15,000 of S106 monies held with Leeds City Council should be submitted, in order to assist with the cost of the project.

3.3 To receive information regarding security measures at the Puritan Chapel and decide further action

No further information was available. It was agreed that in the first instance installation of locked gates would provide a useful deterrent and this avenue will be pursued.

3.4 To receive information regarding the replacement infant swing, swing hangers and chains and spire net.

The Clerk informed the meeting that the previously agreed quote was incorrect as it did not include a provision for the existing cradle swing which will also need to be replaced as the chains cannot be replaced separately to the swing, and only three sets of hangers had been included on the previous quote.

The Village Caretaker has installed new connectors on the Spire net therefore this element of the quote is no longer required.

It was AGREED by ALL that the revised quote should be accepted for the replacement swing parts.

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

No further information was available. The Clerk will seek advice from the LCC Conservation office, and additional quotes based on the design already quoted for and submit the appropriate planning applications including Listed Building Consent.

3.6 To receive information regarding a request to cut back Laurels and trees at The Knoll and decide further action

A further discussion took place regarding the extent of cutting back the laurels. It was AGREED that the Parish Council need to find a permanent solution for cutting back the laurels as it is not cost effective to be cutting back on a bi-annual basis.

It was AGREED that the laurels should either be cut back to a height that is manageable so that they can be trimmed on an annual basis by the Village Caretaker, removed and replanted with trees or left to grow.

Neighbouring properties are entitled to trim back any overhanging vegetation.

4. To receive a report on additional work completed since 16th July 2019

Memorial plaques have been installed at the cemetery.

Garden of Remembrance plaque has been installed at the Cemetery

Weeding of path at Puritan Chapel

Cutting back of overhanging vegetation on the boundary of The Knoll with Breary Lane

Repair lights at the Pavilion

Repair of the noticeboard at St Giles Church

Weeding paths at the Playground

Trimmed trees at Jubilee Copse to improve sightlines for bus shelters

Cut back laurel and yew at the Cemetery

Pointing of wall at the Cemetery

Replace spire net connectors

The top step at The Knoll has been replaced by an external contractor

Turf in the goal mouth at the Recreation Ground has been replaced by an external contractor.

5. To receive a report from BiB:

The next meeting of Bramhope in Bloom is October. A new treasurer has been appointed.

6. Matters arising

a. To receive information regarding the showers at the Pavilion and decide further action.

A discussion took place regarding the showers and water system at the Pavilion. It was agreed that the works should be undertaken as soon as possible as the existing showers are unsatisfactory and have deteriorated further as some tiles are now loose. However a third quote is required prior to agreeing a contractor.

An additional discussion took place regarding the possibility of installing solar heaters for water. This is something that can be looked in to and if agreed installed at a later date following the works to the showers. It would take approximately 10 years to break even following the installation.

A discussion also took place regarding the kitchen area and toilet facilities at the Pavilion. It was agreed that they should also be looked at as part of the Pavilion refurbishment programme.

b. To receive a request to consider installation of electric vehicle charging points and decide further action.

A discussion took place. At this stage installation of electric vehicle charging points will not be pursued further.

c. To discuss the installation of a battery recycling facility on the small electrical recycling container in the village car park and decide further action.

A discussion took place regarding the installation of a battery recycling facility. It was AGREED by ALL that LCC should be given permission to site a battery recycling container in the village car park.

d. To receive the Annual RoSPA inspection report

The RoSPA inspection report has now been received. There are some repairs required to the Spire net and swings, which have either been completed or the Parish Council already has in hand. In addition there are some areas of the surfacing that require minor repairs. The areas requiring remedial repair are by the swings, the carousel and the spire net. All areas are deemed to be low risk. The joins in the surfacing did not raise cause for concern. Materials to carry out the repairs have been ordered and received. The repairs will be completed in the coming weeks.

The Inspector also recommended securing the bench seat and some minor repairs and moving the picnic bench out of the play space and securing it to the ground. It was noted that the picnic bench has previously been re-sited but has been moved back by parents into the play space.

Cllr Harris gave permission, if the bench provided by her in memory of her late mother, was beyond repair that it could be removed.

e. To discuss a general overhaul of the playground including litter bins, benches, signage, cleaning of equipment and decide further action.

All matters were referred to the Playground Working Group who are due to meet in September.

Cllr Harris asked if the possibility of having a recycling bin at The Knoll could be explored by the PWG.

f. To receive information regarding de-leafing in 2019

A discussion took place regarding de-leafing in 2019. It was agreed that the Village Caretaker should concentrate on areas owned by the Parish Council in the first instance and that the Clerk should request that LCC sweep areas under highways responsibility.

g. To discuss the Woodland Trust Free Trees and plans for planting

The free trees will be arriving between 1st and 22nd November. Cllr Bryant offered to contact the school to see if they would like to be involved in the tree planting.

Locations for the trees still need to be determined and will be given consideration at a future meeting. Areas suggested were Jubilee Copse and recreation ground.

h. To receive an update from the Clerk following the Playground Training attended on 25th July 2019.

In addition to the Annual Inspection the training suggested that a professional company be engaged to undertake an inspection every three months, in addition to the Parish Council's weekly inspection. The Clerk volunteered to seek costs.

When purchasing new equipment the recommendation was to check the cost of repairs and spare parts, as some fittings are very expensive to replace compared with their more traditional counterparts, for example some styles of swing fitting are much more expensive to replace than more traditional styles.

7. To receive Parish Council Properties exception reports.

a. There were no exceptions reported.