

BRAMHOPE & CARLTON PARISH COUNCIL

MEETING OF THE VILLAGE MAINTENANCE COMMITTEE

Tuesday 9th June 2020, 6.00pm via video conferencing

Present:

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

Nicola Woodward – Clerk

1. To receive apologies.

There were no apologies received.

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 on policies for Memorial Trees and Benches.

Cllr Cooper acknowledged the work that has been undertaken by the Cemetery Working Group to develop a policy to assist in responses for requests for the provision of memorial trees and benches in the village.

The Clerk highlighted that the intention of the policy was a reference point and reference document to deal with ad hoc requests and that it was not the intention to actively promote the provision of memorial trees and benches.

Lengthy discussions have taken place to develop the policies and associated forms. The policies will be reviewed on a regular basis so any areas that are not working well can be re-visited and amendments made, subject to agreement by Full Parish Council.

It was AGREED that the draft policies should be considered for adoption at the next meeting of Full Parish Council.

3.2 To receive an update on the Cemetery project for 2020/21 and decide further action.

The Clerk has contacted four companies to date to seek quotes for the cemetery project. A meeting has been held with one company and a quote is awaited. The Clerk will seek additional quotes.

The contractor that the Clerk has spoken to had indicated that there may not be any foundations to the existing wall therefore will include a provision in the quote for creating foundations if required. It was agreed that this may be necessary and that a full rebuild of the wall would ensure its long term future with minimal maintenance.

Cllr Anslow highlighted that there may be some shrinkage in the ground after the removal of the tree.

3.3 To receive an update on the proposed works to the culvert on Jubilee Copse.

Cllr Harris and the Clerk have met with an LCC Officer and a neighbour to discuss the previously agreed works to the culvert on Jubilee Copse in the area between The Sycamores and The Poplars.

LCC Officers will arrange to take levels to determine the required height of a clay bunding bank, which will be covered with top soil and seeded with grass, from the culvert bank along the boundary line of the Copse. This will create an area where excess water can go when the level in the culvert increases, in order to slow down the flow into the next section of the culvert. The Clerk and Cllr Harris discussed with the LCC Officer the care of the grass

and weeds in the culvert. The LCC Officer was clear that the grass and weeds growing on the banks and in the bottom of the culvert will not impede the flow of water and stated there were no issues with the condition of the culvert which would hamper flow.

The Clerk, Cllr Harris and LCC Officer then went on to inspect the culvert between Wynmore Avenue and The Poplars. The LCC Officer is advising/assisting the Parish Council with some alterations to the grate at the Poplars end of Jubilee Copse before the water course enters the underground pipe. Arrangements are also being made to remove some of the silt. The excess silt will be compacted on the banks of the culvert and in a designated area of the Copse. This is normal practice. The LCC Officer was happy that the culvert is running freely and was not concerned about the undergrowth at this time.

The LCC Officer stated that LCC would not cut back undergrowth on the banks of culverts at this stage as the undergrowth is a natural habitat for insects which in turn supports the birds etc and the growth is not affecting the flow in the culvert. Some areas of growth should be monitored as they may need some cutting back if they do not die back naturally at the end of the summer.

Cllr Cooper suggested that a letter of thanks should be sent on behalf of the Chair to LCC for the assistance and advice they have given in this matter.

4. To receive a report on additional work completed since 14th April 2020.

Additional work completed since 12th May include strimming and hedge cutting at Carlton Water Hole, replacement of felt on shed roof, tidying up of graves at cemetery, removal of broken glass from toilet roof, clearing of weeds from car park, tidying up broken glass around recycling area, checking bus shelters including painting where required, changing tap at cemetery, edging of path at Jubilee Copse, clearing of leaves from flower beds at Puritan Chapel, trimming back of overhanging branches and clearing ginnel off Wynmore Avenue, repairs to playground surfacing.

5. To receive a report from BiB:

Summer bedding plants will be arriving in the next few days. Some work tidying up at the Puritan Chapel and weeding the borders has taken place. Four new hand forged hayracks have been purchased on behalf of the Parish Council for The Cross and will be planted up by a BiB member as the nursery does not currently have a planting up service available. The Parish Council will reimburse Bramhope in Bloom for the purchase of the hayracks.

6. Matters arising

6.1 To receive information on the condition of existing noticeboards and details of potential replacement noticeboards and decide further action.

A discussion took place regarding the existing noticeboards and their locations. There are currently 7 noticeboards including the noticeboard in Carlton. All are either in a poor or average condition. In the winter the majority of the boards are very difficult to access as the doors stick due to expansion of the wood.

Following discussion the principal of having two/three noticeboards was agreed upon. It was agreed that there needed to be a noticeboard in Carlton, plus one or two in Bramhope. The location of the Bramhope noticeboards was discussed. The favoured locations were The Knoll, currently the location of the main Parish Council noticeboard, Tredgold Shops or The Cross as the main focal points of the village. It was also noted that when the Kings Road bus shelter is rebuilt in its new location it has previously been agreed with the developer that a new noticeboard would be installed adjacent to the rebuilt shelter.

It was suggested that the new Parish Council noticeboard should be for Parish notices only and that the other noticeboards would no longer be used by the Parish Council. The old noticeboards would remain in position for use by the community and receive minor repairs until they reach the end of their useful life, at which point they will be removed and not replaced.

The location of the Bramhope noticeboard will be considered again at the next meeting of VMC.

A shortlist of noticeboards will be presented at the next meeting.

7 To receive Parish Council Properties exception reports.

7.1 Puritan Chapel

Cllr Fox noted that during her research in the old Parish Minute books that the wall cabinet in the Puritan Chapel had been installed to display the Chairs badge from Wharfedale Rural District Council. The badge is now held in the PC safe.

7.2 Ginnels/Footpaths

Cllr Anslow noted that the top layer of bricks on the dwarf wall at the entrance to the ginnel between The Birches and Southfield is crumbling and may need some repair. Cllr Cooper will have a look and report back.

7.3 Recreation Ground

A request has been received from the cricket club to leave their practise nets out on the cricket square to allow socially distanced batting practice. There were no objections to this.

Cllr Anslow suggested that there might be the possibility of a short cricket season which runs through to later in the year, mid October perhaps. This would possibly affect the football team playing on a Saturday.

8 Any other urgent business not on the agenda

8.1 The Clerk has received a request to use the Pavilion and Recreation Ground for a 5 – 6 week period over the summer holidays for a Summer Camp.

A discussion took place. The Pavilion and Recreation Ground have been used for this purpose in the past. Current legislation would not allow this so until the government guidelines change it would not be possible.

Additional cleaning would be required which would need to be sourced and built in to the cost of any hire charges.

It was suggested that the Scout Camp or Rugby Club could also be suggested as suitable locations.

A fixed daily charge can only be agreed when the cleaning requirements can be determined.

9 To arrange the date of next meeting

The date of the next meeting will be Tuesday 14th July at 6.00pm

The meeting closed at 7.05pm
Minutes by Nicola Woodward
Published on 10/06//20