



# Dodington Parish Council

**MINUTES** of a meeting of the **Community, Leisure & Environment Committee** held in Council Chambers adjacent to Dodington Parish Hall on Monday 21<sup>st</sup> August 2023 at 7:00pm.

**PRESENT:** Councillors Richard Evans, David Fitt, Louise Harris, Sarah Hurley, Christine Howard, Adrian Hutton (Chairing Meeting), Sandra Jee, Jean Thomas and Chris Zapata

**Also Present:** Clerk to the Council – Hannah Saunders (Clerking Meeting), Deputy Clerk – Pip Tymon and Estates Officer – Ken Thomas (from 7:20 – 8:10pm).

## 1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

- Received from Cllrs Paul Hulbert and Laura Pearson Tong.

## 2. DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS UNDER LOCALISM ACT 2011 AND REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATIONS

- The Clerk declared an interest in Item 5 and will leave the room whilst this matter is being discussed.
- There were no further declarations of interest or requests for dispensation.

## 3. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

- There were no members of public at meeting.
- Cllr Jean Thomas had been informed by a local resident that walks at QEII regularly that entrance to QEII playing fields at Kingscote – had partly washed away. Clerk confirmed that she was already aware and it was in hand.

## 4. MINUTES OF, AND MATTERS ARISING FROM THE PREVIOUS CL&E COMMITTEE MEETING 17<sup>th</sup> JULY 2023

- It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes, as printed and circulated, be confirmed as a true record.
- Cllr Adrian Hutton signed the minute book.
- Matters arising – not covered during course of agenda:-
  - Clerk confirmed that she and Cllr Jean Thomas had attended a meeting facilitated by YTC at Poole Court earlier that day regarding funding for youth work and the Armadillo. This was following email received earlier in year from Yate regarding help with funding – members had wanted to know more details before committing.

- It was a useful meeting – as Clerk had also been speaking to Learning Partnership West LPW who are currently putting bid in for SGC youth work....and the Yate Officers explained the working relationship between them and LPW.
- It was agreed that matter needed to go on a Full Council agenda – and be considered in the Autumn budget, but prior to that it was felt that it would be good for members to meet with Yate Town Council Officers at the Armadillo – as they had some questions that Clerk couldn't answer.
- Clerk to arrange with aim for both parties to meet before 18<sup>th</sup> September (when next Full Council Meeting is scheduled for).

*Clerk left the room whilst next item discussed.*

## **5. TEMPORARY SUMMER WORK**

- Details had been given to Chair / Deputy Clerk regarding hours worked to date from mid June – and report had been received as to why extension required – what this would cost and how it would be funded.
- It was proposed by Cllr Louise Harris and seconded by Cllr David Fitt and RESOLVED to extend the temporary contract until 31<sup>st</sup> August 2023.

*Clerk returned to the Council Chambers.*

## **6. BEST GARDEN IN DODINGTON COMPETITION**

- Cllrs Christine Howard and Richard Evans reported to members that judging had been carried out and trophies awarded.
- Photo of the winning garden in Brockworth was shown and it was noted that there hadn't been many entrants – so needed to think about whether to run again next year – or have it every other year – every 4 years?
- It was agreed that if competition is run again next year then rules and regs will need amending stating that previous winners can't enter or be nominated (if they are nominated unknowingly then their nomination will be discounted and nominator informed accordingly)
- Matter to be discussed further when budget is looked at for CL&E agenda 24 – 25 in the Autumn.
- Cllrs Christine Howard / Richard Evans wanted their thanks to Project Officer – Liz noted – as she had carried out a lot of the work behind the scenes.

## **7. LILLIPUT PARK**

- Following recent reports of Anti-Social behavior in the park (and in particular young people on little motorbikes) matter of signage was raised by members – and whether we had adequate signage – was it worth investing in more? Clerk confirmed that Project Officer had contacted 3 local companies regarding production of 'Do's / Don'ts signs. To date only one company has responded / given an approximate price....and this was £1400 for 4 signs (one on each entrance). Clerk explained that money would have to be vired from interpretation board budget to pay for this. After due consideration – it was felt that at this stage extra signage would be futile. The Parish Council can't police the park
- Issues with Hemlock in stream that were mentioned at end of last CL&E meeting has been dealt with – SGC were contracted to carry out work as they had all the protective equipment – and could remove from site and incinerate. There were also

reports of stream looking murky – and following discussions with SGC Clerk reported to the Environment Agency – who acted swiftly. It would appear to be run off from a land drain. No samples were taken – but EA are keeping an eye on situation.

- Clerk was chasing renewal of Lease for Lilliput Park with SGC. The officer that was working on it was aware – but had been heavily involved with land at Shireway and dealing with that lease / sale.
- A replacement metal bench has been sourced for Lilliput – it is one that a contractor took out / replaced for SGC. They were asked to dispose of it – but it is an ideal replacement for the broken wooden bench at bottom of steps to Lilliput Court. Paint will need touching up – it was agreed that once in situ – will look to change colour from green to red – so that it is dementia friendly.
- Clerk informed members that the damaged rotten wood around Boule Court in-between adult fitness equipment had been removed. Clerk suggested just making it good with new sleepers / tidying bed up and then bringing matter back to CL&E budget meeting in Autumn to agree longer term plans for the area (this was discussed approximately 2 – 2/5 years ago – and no decisions reached).

## **8. QEII**

- Project Officer has sent consultation regarding QEII Running Track out to all local football teams and other stake holders such as schools, Abbotswood Residents Group and Swift Sports. Aim is to provide / present report of consultation results / findings to members at next CL&E meeting (25<sup>th</sup> September 2023). In the meantime Clerk confirmed that the Project Officer had chased SGC again to see if Playing Pitch Strategy Updates had been received. As of 2 weeks ago nothing had been received from Sport England.
- Clerk confirmed that she had responded accordingly to the FOI request(s) received from local resident at Kelston Close – and has since had a conversation with Housing Officer of Brighter Places – who is content that the matter is satisfied – but should further issues arise – they are happy to mediate.
- The pitch restoration work is completed – and first friendly game of season was played on Sunday morning. Most of the work at changing rooms has been undertaken over the summer – with quotes received for the work required (post electrical survey) and to upgrade the lights to LED so that the changing rooms can be classified as Carbon Neutral.
- After due consideration – it was agreed to ask for breakdown of costs on the quote and get at least one further quote – as it appeared quite expensive. Deputy Clerk to bring back to Finance & General Purposes meeting at the beginning September for consideration.

## **9. GREEN WASTE FOR COMPOSTING**

- Estates Officer reported on the trial of the shredder – it was partially successful in that it efficiently shredded the bramble and hedge clippings – however the green waste blocked the shredder – so it was abandoned. Following a recommendation, a mulching blade was purchased to use on the brush cutter. This was successful, reducing the green waste in bulk by 75%. Cost of the blade was £16 – so it was agreed that this was the best way forward for processing green waste and composting in the future.

## **10. WAPLEY BUSHES**

- Clerk read brief report received from Cllr Paul Hulbert – who mentioned:-

- Couple of work mornings had had to be cancelled due to the bad weather, next work morning is scheduled for:- Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> September 2023 at 10am.
  - South West In Bloom assessors visited and seemed impressed by the tour we gave them (results and feedback awaited)
  - Meadows and Orchard guided walk Sat 23 Sep 2 pm
  - Lots of fruit on the apples in the Orchard - please pick some!
- Estates officer reported that in order to clear much of the bramble along pathways a more powerful brush cutter (with mulching blade) was hired – and it did a good job, clearing the bramble by a meter on each side of the pathways.
  - Several large branches have been removed (overhanging deadwood close to paths).
  - Whilst working in woods over the summer – a couple of matters have come to attention of Estates Officer – which he wanted to inform Council about– so that reps could mention to Conservation Group at next meeting.
    - Briefly these are that there is a lot of lying timber that has been left in past when tree work done (for habitat, etc)...a lot of this is now covered with bramble and ground ivy and in some area's could be considered a safety risk for people working in the wood. The bramble / ivy is preventing growth of native wild flowers too.
    - There is concern about integrity of some tree's as 4 have fallen down this winter in bad weather.
    - As well as the Ash Dieback work – there is need for work on some of the other tree's (pruning / coppicing).
    - Prior to any more tree planting (which has to be done following removal of Ash Tree's) there is a need to clear some area's of woodland and this will take quite a while as a lot of clearing to be done.
  - After discussion it was agreed to put item on next agenda regarding setting up a Working Group for Wapley Bushes. There was talk about combining with Ash Dieback or Climate Emergency – but Clerk felt it should be a dedicated stand-alone group. Cllr Sandra Jee would like to be included on this group – and there were a few other volunteers as well.
  - Besom Lane entrance to Wapley was then discussed – following on from last months meeting when Chair said he would look into details / pricing.
  - Before conversation got underway – Clerk informed members that although land in question is in Dodington's ownership – to make such a change as to install 10+ parking spaces would require council to find out if COU / Planning was required. As such Clerk felt futile to continue conversation – as there is no money budgeted for currently.
  - Regardless of prices that Chair has ascertained – 3 full quotes would still be required – and it is not worth seeking these until know via SGC if COU / Planning would be granted.
  - The essential element at this entrance is ensuring there is a second means of entering / exiting Wapley (for all contractors / emergency services) and via installation of 2 x drop down bollards this can be easily and achieved at a reasonable cost. This was approved at last CL&E meeting and Clerk is trying to find best bollards possible (telescopic bollards have been discounted).

## **11. ASH DIEBACK DISEASE**

- Clerk / Project Officer and Estates Officer had a successful meeting onsite at Wapley with contractor on 10<sup>th</sup> August 2023. Final negotiations took place and work is due to start on 18<sup>th</sup> September 2023 – and be completed by end November 2023.

- The woodland tree's will be tackled first as this area will become muddy more quickly than other parts.
- Way to stay in touch (officers / contractor) was agreed – and site signage advising of works will start to go up beginning September 2023.

## **12. BRASS ON THE GRASS**

- It was felt that event had been successful – with some new faces attending– and the band able to debut a lot of new music.
- It was advertised better this year – and refreshments easier to serve.
- Nearly £60 was raised for 1<sup>st</sup> Raysfield Scouts from event (which they were pleased about).
- A lot of the expenditure was on things that can be used next year (banners worded in such a way that they can be used year on year).
- Thanks to all that volunteered on day (weekend) were noted and to officers who carried out a lot of the preparatory work.
- Band have been in touch wanting to arrange another event prior to Christmas – but looking at availability of hall – and fact we have Christmas event – don't think this side of Christmas will be possible.

## **13. FINANCE MATTERS**

- Committee spend YTD compared to Budget was reviewed. We are nearly 50% of way through year – with only 25% spend YTD – so all in order.
- Clerk explained that by end of month Summer Playscheme will have to be paid for and next month will see some of the Ash Dieback work paid for

## **14. ITEMS TO REPORT**

- Cllr Jean Thomas would like Lilliput Bridge checked under matting to ensure that it is safe (feels squidgy underfoot).

*Meeting went into closed session and following matter is minuted confidentially.*

### **Open session resumed.**

The date of the next CL&E Committee meeting – Monday 25<sup>th</sup> September @ 7:30pm

As there was no further business – the meeting was closed at 9:00pm and Chair apologised for running over – but thanked everyone for their time.

Signed:..... Committee Chair

Date:25<sup>th</sup> September 2023