



WILLAND PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE HELD ON THURSDAY 24 OCTOBER 2019

Present: Councillors Grantham, Little, Scott, Tobin, Warren, Whatley, Wilcox

In attendance: 1 member of the public.

Apologies: Councillors Glover, Phare, Clerk K Taylor,

Councillor Grantham opened the meeting at 19:55 and reminded that it would be recorded

2. There were no declarations of interest

3. There were no public questions.

4. Councillor Warren proposed that the minutes of the Environment Committee meeting held on Thursday 26 September 2019 be signed as a true record Councillor Whatley seconded the proposal and the minutes were signed.

5. Progress reports for information

a) New specification for cemetery extension fencing was presented by Councillor Grantham. After discussion some minor amendments were made to terminology and the suggested addition of an extra strand of barbed wire. Quotations to be sought for the use of wooden posts and alternative of reinforced concrete posts. **ACTION:** Councillor Grantham & Clerk

b) BMX track – the Task Group presented an indicative picture of a possible layout which would be surfaced in rubber compound and would cost about £66,000. After discussion it was agreed to defer a decision for further options and costings to be obtained before considering fundraising. **ACTION:** Task Group.

c) The specifications for the grass cutting for the verges and for the two large play areas were reviewed. The tender process was also discussed and considered. The following was agreed:

(i) The grass verges owned by DCC – specification seemed to be suitable and working well with current contractor. The awarded contract was for 2 years and it was contracted that the price would rise by 2.5% for 2020.

(ii) Jubilee Parish Field and Gables Lea Leased Land. Grass Cutting Specification WPC 00 and Hedge Management Specification WPC 006 - both Revision 2 and dated 14 December 2016 were discussed. WPC00 should have a sentence added to WORKS '*Strimming should also be carried out around all fences, play equipment and seats etc.*' WPC006 did not need amendment. Current contractor found to be very suitable and contract to be extended subject to agreeable price. If not agreed, then full tender process required. **ACTION:** Clerk

(iii) Orchard Way Play and open space area. Grass Cutting Specification WPC 11 and Hedge Management Specification WPC 12 - both Revision 1 and dated April 2019 were agreed as needing no amendment. Current contractor found to be very suitable and contract to be extended subject to agreeable price. If not agreed, then full tender process required.

(iv) Specifications for Mallow Court and South View Close Play Areas found to be suitable. Current contractor found to be very suitable and contract to be extended subject to agreeable price. If not agreed, then full tender process required. **ACTION:** Clerk

d) The Cemetery Grass cutting specification WPC001 Dated 1 November 2018 should be amended for the first paragraph under WORKS to read '*To cut/strim grass 12 times per annum. Strimming should be completed around all headstones, plinths, seats, tree trunks and any other similar structures. The site should be left clean and tidy with no possible danger to persons using the area.*' Specification WPC 002 dated 1 November 2018 Revision 1 needs no amendment. Full tender process required with possible quotes from at least three separate contractors. **ACTION:** Clerk

e) Allotment trees - A decision from MDDC was awaited to permit works on trees. Deferred to next Full Council meeting. **ACTION:** Clerk

f) Hedge on Gables Rd – In the absence of the Clerk no update was available. **ACTION:** Clerk

6. Play area and ground maintenance

a) To arrange the tender process for ground maintenance & play area contracts – Decision recorded under 5 c) above. **ACTION:** Clerk

b) To arrange the tender process for the cemetery maintenance - Decision recorded under 5 d) above. **ACTION:** Clerk

c) Annual inspection of play equipment - To consider any necessary action – report circulated 07.10.19 Councillor Grantham advised on works carried out and suggested further minor adjustment works. Approved for him to liaise with handyman and Clerk to get works ordered and completed. Areas of damage to the safety surface in the Jubilee Field fenced area were discussed. Councillor Grantham to liaise with contractor and clerk to arrange temporary repairs. **ACTION:** Councillor Grantham & Clerk

7. Climate Change

Councillor Warren updated members on the current position with DCC and MDDC and mentioned the work of local groups in the area. He was not aware of any such groups in Willand and asked members to advise him if they heard of any. Groups were being invited to put forward ideas to a 'think tank' being overseen by Exeter University. **ACTION:** All members

8. Councillors Roundtable

a) Councillor Wilcox raised the issue of remembrance wreath and laying at the war memorial. Chairman had this in hand and would attend. If he could not he would liaise with Vice Chair as last year. **ACTION:** Councillor Warren

b) Councillor Wilcox gave an update on problems with emails and possible solution and it was agreed that the new system would be implemented from 25 October 2019. **ACTION:** Councillor Wilcox

c) Councillor Whatley update members regarding her involvement with water leak in Silver Street which would now hopefully be shortly resolved.

d) Members were concerned that our Clerk was still unwell after her recent accident and it was resolved to send our good wishes and flowers **ACTION:** Councillor Whatley

e) Councillor Little advised on Willand United Charities and the provision of a constitution which would show that 3 of the Trustees would be nominated by the Parish Council. He sought views. It was agreed that he would arrange for the relevant section of the final draft to be brought to the attention of councillors for a decision. **ACTION:** Councillor Little

f) Councillor Tobin asked what the current position was with the complaint regarding the overgrown drain/culvert from Celandine Lawn. Members were of the view that the Clerk was dealing with this with MDDC. **ACTION:** Clerk

g) Councillor Grantham raised a potential breach of planning permission at a certain location. It was agreed that Councillor Warren would raise this with MDDC Planning Enforcement. **ACTION:** Councillor Warren

There being no further business the Chair closed the meeting at 2059 hours.

Councillor Keith Grantham
Chair of Environment Committee

