

Minutes of the Grounds Maintenance Sub-Committee of Aston Clinton Parish Council, held on 26th June 2018 at 10am at the Parish Meeting Room

Present:

Councillors: -

L Ronson – Chairman

L Tubb

C Read

C Judge

Minutes: G Merry

0 members of the public

18.07 Apologies

Apologies were accepted from K Loxley.

18.08 Declarations of Interest:

There were no declarations.

18.09 Minutes of the last meeting – held 23rd April 2018.

The minutes were agreed and signed

18.10 Park

- i. **Annual Grounds Contract:** It was discussed and agreed that the churchyard was still not being done to the required standard. Cllr Ronson offered to discuss this with the contractor. The hedge is to be trimmed in August and February. Cllr Read offered to trim the path from the church to the park and Community Services would be asked to clear the debris. There are also 2 or 3 sections of the park consistently being missed. Cllr Ronson will bring these to the attention of the contractor.
- ii. **Arboriculturist Quote:** Cllr Read has provided the maps and is waiting to hear back from the arboriculturist.
- iii. **Perimeter:** The council had been asked to leave the perimeter to grow more, as it contains valuable habitats. However, Cllrs were finding it is currently over-run with nettles, thistles etc. This was discussed, and it was agreed to leave one section to grow freely and then assess the matter later the season. The 'sample' section would be from the London Road/Coffee Shop entrance, south towards the 'beach' but not Old Rectory Farm's fence which would continue to be cleared.
- iv. **Pitch Work:** The football pitch is in need of some remedial work. However, obtaining quotes had been left rather late as the football season starts in 2 weeks. Vertidrainage as well as the adding of sand is needed. It was discussed and agreed to aim to have the work done anyway, providing it was within 2 weeks. The 2 quotes received were discussed and it was agreed to offer the work to the current Ground's contractor. Cllr Ronson agreed to instruct them.
- v. **Other:** The newly-planted oak trees were discussed and it was agreed the clerk would ask the contractor if they are under warranty, with a view to replacing the dead one. It was suggested paying someone to bring a bowser to water these, as well as the new tree by the stream to the south. Cllr Ronson agreed to ask Mr Ronson if he would do this.

18.11 Non-Park

- i **Hedge Encroachment:** The clerk expressed concern that certain hedges in the village were growing out into the pavements, forcing pedestrians into the road. These included Brook Street and London Road between the church and the war memorial. Although she has powers to write to homeowners and ask them to cut back hedges, she was reluctant to do so, due to previous abuse. It was agreed that Cllr Read would speak to the owners concerned. Cllr

Ronson will approach the VAHT re. the corner of Lower Icknield and Rosebery Road. The clerk asked for the committee to monitor any hedge encroachment.

- ii **Village Signs Request:** The clerk had received a proposal from a window cleaner who has been cleaning village signs in for Wendover parish. It was discussed and agreed to ask him to provide a quote for this in Aston Clinton.
- iii **ATC Weed Spraying – Wenwell Close:** The clerk had received complaints that Wenwell Close is very overgrown with weeds. Cllr Judge reported one house in particular has allowed ivy to grow into the road and she agreed to advise which house it was. The clerk would then write to the resident. It was discussed that no council carries out weed spraying anymore and the only way this can be addressed is if homeowners all do the areas outside their houses. It was agreed that the committee would check Wenwell Close and advise the clerk what could be done.
- iv **Other:** Cllr Tubb had received an email from Gravity Skateparks threatening legal action if the balance of their invoice remained unpaid. She advised that the reasons for withholding payment were sound and Gravity were fully advised of this at the time. It was agreed to hold firm on this matter, as the failings of their original build were well-documented.

18.12 Footpaths

The 9 internal footpaths included in the annual contract would be started this week. It was agreed the committee would monitor the progress of this.

..... Chairman

Date: