Minutes of the Grounds Maintenance Sub-Committee of Aston Clinton Parish Council, held on 23rd April 2018 at 9.00am at the Parish Meeting Room

Present:

Councillors: -

L Ronson – Chairman C Read L Tubb C Judge

K Loxley (co-opted)

Clerk: G Merry 1 member of the public

18.01 Apologies

Absent: Cllr Egglesfield.

18.02 Declarations of Interest:

There were no declarations.

18.03 Minutes of the last meeting – held 24th November 2017.

The minutes were agreed and signed

18.04 Park

- i. **Annual Contract Progress:** Generally, the committee was satisfied with the new contractor apart from a few areas where strimming had not been complete. The clerk took note of these and will speak to the contractors.
- ii. Cutting Policy and Natural Habitats: A member of the public had asked to speak and had circulated a written proposal. He felt the park had become somewhat stripped back and was poorer for wildlife. He suggested that in the south-eastern corner, towards the new culvert, a habitat could be developed by moving the fence inwards to protect the area from the public. The member of the public stated it is a chalk stream and due to its rarity, suitable planting for a different wildlife habitat should be encouraged. The area could be allowed to grow freely with the possible introduction of water planting (rushes etc) to encourage water voles etc. The member of the public left the meeting and the committee discussed the suggestions which it broadly supported. It was agreed that there were enough nettles already, but a site visit would be carried out to ascertain what could be done. It was agreed the park fence would be kept in place to prevent any potential land grab but possibly install a new one around the proposed area. The exact park boundary would need to be established. The clerk agreed to obtain quotes for the fence.
- iii. **Arboriculturist Quote:** The quote of £2280 plus VAT was discussed. Cllr Tubb expressed concern that the trading terms and conditions did not cover any liability on the arboriculturist's part. It was agreed that in having the assessment done, the council would have taken all possible steps to protect the public. It was agreed that the clerk should obtain 2 more quotes to see if better terms would be offered.
- iv. **Compound Colts Request**: The Colts had requested a container in the compound as they are outgrowing the shed. It was discussed and agreed that this could probably be accommodated, although the Colts would be asked to be tidier generally in the compound. The committee would review the space available and report back.
- v. **Debris Clearance**: The football club's old goal posts were still behind the All-Weather Pitch despite several requests to move them. It was agreed a deadline would be set, after which the council would remove them and charge the cost to the FC. It was agreed this would be set as 1/8/18. The fly-tipped debris from the trim trail repairs had been removed and it was agreed Cllr Read and Mr Ronson would install the missing Trim Trail post.

18.05 Non-Park

- i. Stablebridge Road: The clerk explained that Stablebridge Road was not included in the Devolved Services contract and therefore did not get mowed with the rest of the village. A resident had complained about this. It was agreed however, that the area would be left as a natural habitat and would be sowed with wildflowers. A general tidy would be arranged once a year at the end of the season and the clerk agreed to speak to A.T.C or the Grounds Contactors about factoring this in and seeding the area.
- ii. **Village Signs Request:** A member of the public had asked whether bespoke village signs could be designed, depicting images related to the village. It was agreed that this had been discussed previously but there had not been time to address it. It would be brought back on to the agenda with a view to actioning this year.
- iii. **Cricket Club Request**: The cricket club had advised that their tractor is broken and has asked for financial help to replace it. The PC is not set up to make grants as such but ways to possibly help the club were discussed. It was agreed that cricket is a valuable village activity and it would be worth finding out the cost of including regular mowing of the cricket ground, as part of the annual contract. The clerk agreed to find out the cost. This would then need to be agreed by full council.

18.06 Footpaths

Although 9 rights of way were included in the annual maintenance contract, Mr Loxley felt there were more that needed attention and asked what the budget was. The clerk stated that the entire Premises and Repairs budget was £27,000 for the year and that £660 had been spent last year on paths other than the 9. It was agreed there would be money available and it would be necessary for the facilities committee to look at apportioning the budget into specific areas, at their June meeting. It was agreed the following rights of way were most in need: -

ACL 15 — tidy up ACL 34 and 37 — gravelling or similar surfacing.	
Cllr Read agreed to advise the clerk on suitable contractors for the surfa	acing work
Chairman	Date: