

## 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 Eggesfield.

### **18.02 Declarations of Interest:**

There were no declarations.

### **18.03 Minutes of the last meeting – held 24<sup>th</sup> 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.

