

Minutes of the Grounds Maintenance Sub-Committee of Aston Clinton Parish Council, held on 15th January 2019 at 10am at the Parish Meeting Room

Present:

Councillors: -

L Ronson – Chairman

L Tubb

A Duffield

C Read

C Judge

K Loxley

Minutes: G Merry

0 members of the public

19.01 Apologies

There were no apologies and Cllr Duffield was co-opted onto the sub-committee.

19.02 Declarations of Interest:

There were no declarations.

19.03 Minutes of the last meeting – held 13th November 2018.

The minutes were agreed and signed

19.04 Park

- i. **Annual Grounds Contract Review:** The clerk supplied a copy of the contract which Cllr Tubb reviewed, and the contractor's own Q.A. tick sheet. Cllr Tubb pointed that although the contract states that any price increase must be in line with the RPI, the contractor's increase of £4,200 exceeded this. However, it was still lower than the other bids and it had been agreed to retain them for another year, or risk them terminating. Work was reviewed and the clerk completed the tick sheet. It was felt reasonable that in instances where the regular cuts were not done (e.g. during drought conditions), it was reasonable to ask them to carry out other jobs instead. Missed cuts would need to be noted. It was agreed that the terms of the contract had been complied-with and Cllrs were particularly pleased with the grass cutting. It was felt the footpaths could have been more thoroughly cleared with more attention to side growth and overhang. This would be discussed with the contractor. It was agreed to order a spring 'feed' of the football pitch. Mr Loxley asked for consideration for the Baptist churchyard and Cllr Tubb suggested the church write to the PC with their request.
- ii. **Replacement Trees and Woodland Trust Offer:** The clerk asked for clarification on what replacements were needed. This was discussed and it was agreed that for each tree lost, 2 would be planted. Currently this included 2 copper beeches in the southwestern corner of the Meadow pitch. In addition, it was agreed that approx. 8 trees would be planted along the fence with the neighbouring farmer's land - preferably willows. Cllr Duffield agreed to investigate the Woodland Trust's offer and report back. One of the oaks planted last year, on the eastern side has died and it was agreed to replace this from council funds.
- iii. **Allotments:** The clerk reported that 16 allotments had been renewed so far, out of 45 and 2 had been given up. The tenants had been given an extra month to pay as notification had been late. Cllr Ronson advised that Mr Ronson is no longer clearing/maintaining unused allotments and it was agreed there was a need for someone to do this, especially as there would now be extra money from the increased rents. It was agreed that the new caretaker would be given first refusal for this work, which included rotavating unused plots, then covering them, as well as weed-killing and some strimming of the pathway areas. They would need their own equipment for this.
- iv. **Dog Fouling:** The clerk asked for clarification on how many spare dog bins were available and whether any fixtures and fittings were needed, as the caretaker was standing by to do the 3

new installations. Cllrs Ronson and Read agreed to check and report back. It was discussed that there may have been a reduction in fouling in the Park and increased awareness of clearing-up may be the reason. The clerk stated her article in the next 'Village Life' focussed on this. It was agreed to ask the school to do a poster campaign again.

v. **Compound and Shed Use:** Cllr Ronson reported that the Colts had cleared most of their equipment out into their own container but had not yet installed the racking at the back of the shed. It was agreed their line-marking equipment should go in the container. It was agreed the clerk would write to the Colts about this, in addition to the following: -

- To remove the posts on the right on entering the compound, with a deadline of end of end of March.
- To remove the aluminium goal posts at the back of the All-Weather Pitch with a deadline of end of March. In each case, the PC would remove the posts and invoice the Colts, if the deadline was not met.
- To dispose of their boxes
- To return all spare shed keys except for the 2 needed by coaches.
- To point out that the shed had been left open again (12/13 Jan)

ACFC would be asked whether they wished to keep the 5-a-side metal posts by the car park. If not, these too could be disposed of.

19.05 Other

- i **Bus Shelter:** Cllr Tubb had sent a second quote to the insurance company and the matter was with the loss adjuster. It was discussed what the next step would be if the insurance company refused to pay. This could be to write to the Insurance Ombudsman.

..... Chairman Date: