

WICKERSLEY PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Environment Committee Meeting

Held at 6.30pm on Monday 30 January 2023 at Wickersley Community Centre

Members Cllrs: P Beighton (Chair), C Grimes, K Phillips, A Bates, M Godfrey, John Robinson

In attendance Cllrs: P Beighton (Chair), C Grimes, A Bates, M Godfrey, John Robinson

In attendance J Whitworth (assistant clerk)

Cllr M Biggin

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting

441 To receive apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Cllr Phillips

442 To approve the minutes of the Environment committee meeting of 1 November 2022

Minutes agreed.

443 To resolve if members of the press and public are to be excluded from any agenda items of the meeting due to the nature of the business to be transacted, Under Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, S1 (2))

No matters to be excluded.

444 To note any matters arising from the meeting of 1 November 2023

Item 433.1 Cllr Bates informed the Committee that in respect of the area of Chevril Court there was now a dropped kerb. It was noted that if the Environment Committee had been made aware then that area could have been tidied up and consideration made to replacing the bench.

Item 433.2 The Queens jubilee canopy. The tree was due to be replaced earlier today (30/1/23) but the gate was blocked so the contractor couldn't get in with the equipment. A note has been placed on the gate asking for access to be kept clear so hopefully this can be planted tomorrow (31/1/23). This item will be discussed later in the meeting. With regards to the land where the tree was originally going to be planted, there has been an update with regards to this land. The Borough council has replied saying that they would split the legal fees with us 50/50 and this would mean we would pay £937.50. Cllr Bates doesn't see what

Signed  Cllr Beighton dated 24/04/23

advantage this would be for the parish council and this is more a matter for the Recreation Committee.

445 To receive financial update

A projects document and a financial document was circulated. The projects document shows the Stephen Shore project and the Queens Jubilee tree. Neither of the documents show the bench replacement. It was asked whether any proposals were given for the budget. The new budget doesn't show bench replacements and the amount hasn't increased by 10% as discussed at the last meeting. The church grant is in the budget as is the Tanyard toilet honorarium. There are adjustments for grass cutting and the grounds maintenance has gone down. There are 2 contracts now, one for grass cutting and one for gardening. The gardening contact is the same amount. The budgets have been agreed. Cllr Godfrey asked the assistant clerk to find out if the amount agreed covers the garden and landscape and also whether there is money in the budget for benches.

Action : Assistant Clerk to speak to Finance Clerk about budget and benches

455 455.1. To discuss and agree progress for bench replacement

A request had been made by recreation committee to have some additional benches at the Bob Mason recreation ground, however, there are other benches within the Parish that needed replacing. It was discussed which would be the next benches to be replaced. It was suggested to replace the benches at Almond Glade and Newhall Avenue areas. It needs to be established that there is money in the budget to replace these benches. There is a bench which the Masons have put outside their premises for a long standing customer, this is on their property. The area at Chevril Court was discussed, this doesn't belong to the Parish Council. The bench at Newhall Avenue has a plaque on it which would need to be taken off and kept at the Community Centre. There are 2 benches at the memorial but these are not in a bad state. It was asked whether there are any wooden benches left and the ones at Almond Glade and Newhall Avenue are both wooden. It was suggested to replace these benches next.

455.2 To update on the Queens Green Canopy tree and to discuss plaque

This has already been discussed at 444 The remainder of this project is to organise a plaque. A discussion took place as to whether the plaque should now be for the Kings Coronation, It was decided that as it had previously been agreed at full counsel it should be for the Queens jubilee. The plaque needs to be on a piece of stone which is large enough to not be stolen which would be placed in front of the tree. This is something that can be done at a later date and Cllr Bates has agreed to look into researching the options. Once the plaque is done then this project will be complete.

455.3 To discuss the toilets at the Tanyard

Cllr Beighton has spoken to the lady who locks the toilets. There had been issues in the past but these seem to have ceased. She has confirmed that there are other members of staff there who watch out so there are no issues, there is no need to

Signed *hu Beigha* Cllr Beighton dated *24/4/03*

increase this for 2 people. Due to there being other staff members it was discussed that she isn't a lone worker. Agreed to take this off the agenda.

455.4 To discuss St Albans Church Grant

If this budget has been agreed then this will allow the Church £1,000. It was discussed that the Councillors would want to see some written evidence and to make it clear to the Church that this is an additional fund to what they already have in place. This extra fund is for improvements and maintenance. The usual procedure is that the church send a request and the Parish Council then respond to it. The amount was then discussed and it doesn't appear in the budget. It was asked that the assistant clerk find out where the money was paid from and has it been paid.

456 To discuss the Heritage Garden

This project has gone as far as it can for the present time and can be taken off the agenda

457 To discuss the tree at the memorial

There has been a complaint from the dentist about the tree. Rotherham Streetpride have been contacted a number of times but no response as to whether they are taking any action. It was agreed that delegated power is given to the assistant clerk on the basis that if the tree is not cut back by the borough then the Environment Committee can arrange for this to be done before April. Only the basics to be done and not the extra work with regards to the blocking of the streetlight.

Action : Assistant Clerk to check if the work has been done. If not done by mid March then to arrange for the crown lift to be done.

458 To discuss Almond Glade area

This is an area which is overgrown. Hobsons are contracted to maintain 2 raised beds, this hasn't been done despite emails from the Assistant Clerk. It was suggested to ask the landowner if they could arrange for the trees to be tidied up, it was agreed that the Environment Committee should not be arranging for the trees to be cut back. A new bench could be installed. Discussions took place about Hobsons and it was agreed to contact him to ask for a meeting so discussions could be made about what needs doing this year and possibly take out items that they don't maintain. This contract will be up for renewal in 2024.

Action : Assistant Clerk to arrange a meeting with Cllr Beighton and Cllr Grimes with Hobsons.

459 To discuss cleaning up railings, street signs and the clock

There has recently been a public consultation held by the Borough Council about suggested improvements to the area from the Three Horseshoes to the Olive Lounge. This included a plan for 4 uplighters to illuminate the clock. Cllr Bates suggested that a better option would be to illuminate the clock faces and has asked Smyths to quote for this and ask that we be given money by the Borough for this. The other proposed works were discussed. There is to

Signed *Paul Beighton* Cllr Beighton dated *20/4/23*

be wooden slatted seating and wooden planters. The proposal is to take out a stone trough. This was discussed and decided that this could possibly be placed in the Heritage Garden. There is also to be an area of wildflowers and planting. The question was raised over who would be maintaining this. It was suggested that the Borough Council be written to and that this should be something that should be taken to full council. Assistant Clerk will inform the Acting Clerk. There are too many bollards proposed, more light pollution, nothing appears to be in the plan for cutting back any of the trees. The underpass was discussed as this smells of urine and it would help if this is sealed, the steps are narrow and the subway also floods. The benches proposed aren't parish preference. It was suggested that they might like to put a power point in so that some Christmas lights could be put in that area. It was also suggested that the pathways and underpass should be something that needed to be concentrated on. It is not thought that Rotherham Borough Council had informed the Parish Council, it would be better to work together and tie in with work the Environment Committee undertake. The planters should be robust and in keeping with what the Parish already have, they should be sustainable and minimum or maintenance free. Cllr Bates has agreed to put together a draft to go to the full Parish Council meeting.

Action : Assistant Clerk to ask the Acting Clerk to put the item on the next Parish Council Agenda

460 To discuss the Tanyard owner contribution

The acting clerk asked that this be put on the agenda as it appears that this amount hasn't increased. It was agreed to ask for an increase to reflect local housing increase, the village being busier, costs rising, inflation. It was suggested to look back at the last 3 years of accounts to ensure that this hadn't been increased more recently than thought. Assistant clerk to put together a letter.

Action : Assistant Clerk to check the last 3 years worth of accounts to see if this had been increased and put together a letter to ask for an increase.

461 To discuss a vehicle for the handymen

The proposition for this is that first a garage will be needed at the Community Centre to replace the shed which is falling apart. The cost will be approximately £8,000, this includes a concrete base. The effect a vehicle would have on the community centre would be that 2 car parking spaces would need to be reserved in a morning so that the vehicle could be parked in the garage. At the present time the handymen are using their own vehicles to transport things like rubbish, tools and materials which is not what they should be having to do. It was discussed at full council that Cllr Bates and the Clerk would do a study of the proposal. It is understood that Cllr Barber is proposing to do a presentation about finances at the next full Parish Council meeting.

462 To note the date of the next meeting date Monday 24th April 2023

Signed  Cllr Beighton dated 