



WANBOROUGH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Footpaths & Village Maintenance Committee held on Monday 19th February 2024 at 7.30pm at Hooper's Field Pavilion

Present: Cllr Richard Bellamy (Chair), Cllr John Emmins, Cllr Kathy Glanville, Cllr Debra Maslin, Cllr John Warr

In attendance: Helen Broughton (Locum Clerk)

Meeting ref:

F&VM/02/24/

1. Apologies: Cllr Omar Mirza

2. Declaration of interest: there were none.

3. Minutes of the committee meeting held on 9th October 2023

It was agreed that the minutes of the meeting held on 9th October 2023 be signed by the Chair as a true record. This was unanimously approved.

4. ***Meeting adjourned for Public Questions***

An inquiry was made regarding the inclusion of item 6b on the agenda, noting that this was not a planning application but rather a notification. The Clerk conceded that this was an error in the agenda's wording. The resident in question also gave an opinion that there were no issues concerning footpath 23, but rather inaccurate information was being disseminated by individuals engaging in what seemed to be a witch hunt against the owners of Honeyfield Farm. It was also suggested that a councillor might have an interest in the matter.

There was also a query regarding whether the Council was familiar with the history concerning the footpaths and the barn at Honeyfield Farm. The Chair admitted he was not aware, prompting a resident to offer to email him a copy of a letter dated September 2011. The Chair acknowledged the offer, stating that once he had reviewed the information, he would be in a better position to address any questions on the matter.

5. Update on the current Village Maintenance & Footpath Projects

The Clerk had circulated the latest version of the village maintenance and footpaths projects which was reviewed at the meeting and would be updated. **ACTION: Chair to update**

6. Footpaths:

- a. The Clerk had circulated the Village Maintenance Report log which was reviewed at the meeting. The Chair agreed to walk all footpaths and update the report log. He would also liaise with the Clerk and Handyman to get issues resolved. **ACTION: Chair to review log and liaise to resolve footpath issues**
A resident inquired about the possibility of installing "no dogs allowed" signs on the play area fence. It was decided to initiate an education campaign first, and if problems persisted, to discuss the implementation of signage at a later meeting. **ACTION: Chair to respond to resident. Chair to post on social media.**
- b. The impact of notification S/PAOTH/23/1476 at Honey Field Farm, on footpath 23 was considered. It was agreed that the Committee was content with the Full Council position and there were no further comment to be made.

7. Village Maintenance

a. Clearing of cuttings around the bowling green

Expenditure of £350 to remove cuttings at the bowls club had been previously agreed however the tree surgeon had now advised that he did not have the capacity to undertake the work. The Handyman had proposed that he hire a chipper to help remove the cuttings.

It was proposed by Cllr Maslin, seconded by Cllr Warr and unanimously agreed that a chipper be hired for use by the Handyman to clear the cuttings around the bowling green. **ACTION: Clerk to contact Handyman**

b. Village Clean Up

It was agreed to work with the new Clerk to establish timings for a Village Clean Up and to liaise with the Ward Councillor.

c. Flower planters

A proposal was made, seconded, and unanimously approved to ascertain if there was adequate budget allocation for a new planter. Additionally, it was decided to seek funding ranging from £200 to £300 at the Full Council meeting to restock the current planters. Volunteers from the local community would be invited to assist with the planting process. **ACTION: Chair to discuss budget with Finance Chair**

d. Road sweeper

It was proposed by Cllr Emmins, seconded by Cllr Glanville and unanimously agreed to put forward a recommendation to Full Council that road sweeping to kerb edges at a cost of £1,540 (plus vat) be funded.

e. Trees from the Woodland Trust

It was agreed to include this as an agenda item for the February Full Council meeting.

f. Update on the gas works

Cllr Warr reported that the gas works across the recreation ground have now been completed. The next phase entails locating the main gas line, presumed to be along the High Street, which may necessitate excavation of the recently laid road surface. Contractors are obligated to restore the surface to its original condition. Following this the Beanlands footpath will be closed for a period of two weeks. The Chair agreed to take photographs of the High Street for documentation purposes. The Council is receiving weekly updates from the project manager, and residents will be kept informed of any developments.

8. It was proposed by Cllr Maslin, seconded by Cllr Warr and unanimously agreed that under the Public Bodies (Admission to the meetings) Act 1960, to exclude the public and press from discussions concerning the following item that which relates to contractual matters.

9. Hoopers Field Maintenance Contract

The Hoopers Field Maintenance Contract was reviewed and minor amendments suggested. This revised contract would be recommended to Full Council at the February meeting. It was agreed to ask the current contractor to carry out the first cut in March as per his contract.

The Village Maintenance Contract would also need to be reviewed and agreed at the February Council meeting. **ACTION: Clerk to circulate draft**

The meeting closed at 8.49pm.