

WANBOROUGH PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Footpaths & Village Maintenance Committee meeting held on Monday 7th June 2021 at 7.30pm

Present: Mike Webster (Chairman), Bob Biggs, John Emmins, Kathy Glanville, Richard Angwin, John Warr

In attendance: Angela Raymond (Parish Clerk)

Minute Ref

07/06/21/

1. Apologies: None
2. Declaration of Interest : None

Public Questions : No public questions received.

3. Footpaths:

- a. Clerk provided a list of all work carried out on footpaths since the last meeting as follows:-
 - Green Lane – Surface and entrances – SBC have stated that until a decision is made they cannot give permission for Parish Council's to carry out work on the Highway verge.
 - Footpath WA30 – Condition of stiles / broken stiles – All stiles repaired
 - Footpath WA9 – Next to Sharpes Farm – Stile repaired.
 - Footpath WA21 – Stile repaired.
 - Footpath WA8 – New hand rail fitted on bridge.
 - Footpath WA23 – Shrubbery cleared along footpath from Honeyfield Farm toward Wanborough Road direction.
 - Pavement from Horpit crossroads along edge of High Street – Muddy and overgrown vegetation. – Handyman has cleared and pavement is now considerably wider.
 - Pavement from Rotten Row (roundabout) to bus stop (opposite Brewer's Pub) – Handyman has cleared path – complete

b. Review and discuss reported problems on footpaths / pavements

Clerk confirmed that the following work is scheduled over the next month:-

- Footpath WA9 – Shrubbery clearance from Sharpes Farm to The Marsh
- Footpath WA30 – Shrubbery clearance along the full stretch of the path
- Footpath WA23 – Repair stile and bridge

c. Review Outstanding items reported to SBC RoW Officer

Clerk circulated a list of all items reported to SBC RoW Officer some reported a number of years ago. Clerk confirmed that gaining a reply from the RoW Officer is difficult.

A discussion took place in relation to what the Parish Council instead and it was agreed to look into the cost of new footpath signage.

ACTION Clerk to gain quotes for signage for discussion at next meeting

4. Village Maintenance

a. Review outstanding maintenance:

- Land at the corner of Church Road (opposite Mayfield). After a discussion it was agreed to contact a Solicitor to gain advice on how to register this piece of land that has been transferred to Parish Council to maintain as part of the "Transfer of Services" in 2016.

ACTION Clerk to contact Solicitor

Angela Raymond
Clerk to Wanborough Parish Council

b. Grass cutting contract

- Idverde were appointed by Parish Council to start in April 2021. Clerk confirmed that overall the work completed is reasonably good, the main problem is having to check that they've not missed any areas
- A resident on the High Street who has always cut the area of grass in front of their property now wants the Council to cut it. A Discussion took place in relation to the piece of land. It was agreed that starting to cut this section could result in others also asking for the land in front of their property being cut. A suggestion was to leave it to go wild as it isn't in a location that will cause problems with visibility.

ACTION Clerk to find out the additional cost if this piece of land was added to our contract.

c. Village Handyman's schedule of work

Clerk confirmed the work the Handyman has been carrying out over the last couple of months.

- d. Village Handyman Job Description – Clerk circulated a copy of the Village Handyman's job description confirming that as the current Handyman has recently confirmed that he will be moving away from the area that it might be a good time to review the job description prior to advertising the vacancy.

ACTION Cllrs to send details to the Parish Clerk confirming what they would like to be included within the job description

A proposal to increase the number of hours of the Handyman over the summer months to be put forward for agreement at Full Council.

5. Bins & Litter Collection

- a. Clerk confirmed that there have been no reported problems.

- Since the last meeting new dog bins have been installed at Green Lane and Rodway Open Space. A new larger bin has been installed at Church Meadow.
- Community litter picks were carried out in conjunction with "Great British Spring Clean" on 3rd, 4th & 5th June. These were very successful and very well attended. Further litter picks will be planned in the future.

6. Play Areas

- a. Update on the Play Areas at Church Meadow and Lower Recreation Field

- The new refurbished play area at Lower Recreation Field is finished it is just waiting for the final inspection by The Inspection Company. Everyone agreed that it looks very good.
- One of the wooden posts on the obstacle course at Church Meadow needs replacing – The part has been ordered the playground contractor is due to arrange replacement.

7. Car Park next to St Andrew's Church

- a. To discuss a request from resident for signage in the car park.

A discussion took place in relation to the request for signage. It was agreed that the benefit of a sign to provide the following details would be beneficial:-

- To confirm the gates will be closed overnight
- To provide contact details for Parish Council so that it's makes it easier for anyone to report problems in the car park.

However there was overall agreement that the sign shouldn't make reference to visitor parking, as it is a public car park.

Action: Clerk to check with SBC Planning as to whether any permission is needed for installing signage within the car park.

8. Update on Village Maintenance Capital Projects

a. Rodway Open Space & footpath

A sum of money has been allocated with the budget for 2021/22 to replace the wooden sculpture at the entrance to Rodway Footpath open space and to repair the wood on the sarsen stone bench. After a discussion it was agreed that Kathy Glanville and John Warr would look into options that can be put forward to residents to gain their feedback.

ACTION Kathy Glanville & John Warr

b. Telephone Box – High Street – Clerk circulated the latest correspondence from Bristol Diocese. After a discussion the committee agreed that due to the cost and the uncertainty in the future that the Bristol Diocese may withdraw their agreement to allow us to adopt the telephone box that the telephone box will remain in BT's ownership.

c. Hooper's Field pond area

Mike Webster provided an update on the recent meeting with Wiltshire Wildlife Trust confirming:-

- Hooper's Field pond meets their criteria for full funding for the restoration of the pond
- In addition Wiltshire Wildlife Trust would provide a management plan to maintain and monitor the pond for at least 15 years.
- The pond will be fenced but access will still be allowed

A discussion took place in relation to the crate at the corner of the field. The committee's general feeling was that it would be better to remove it rather than convert into a bird hide / information point. It was agreed to liaise with the clubs to see what the crate is currently being used for.

The committee were pleased to hear the news about the funding for the restoration of the pond and look forward to seeing further details on this.

Clerk confirmed that at the same meeting we took the Wiltshire Wildlife Trust representatives to view the pond opposite the school and although this pond doesn't meet their criteria they have confirmed that they will quote for this pond to be restored at the same time which may reduce the cost for the Parish Council.

In addition we have been discussing the pond within the Woodland Trust with Sarah Stebbing, she has confirmed that a survey has been carried out on the pond and it's in good health but she was waiting to hear from Wiltshire Council.

Update on ongoing / completed projects

- Storywalk – This has been installed and a group of volunteers who are changing the book every so often. We are onto the 3rd book. There is an ongoing cost to replace the books each time but we are keeping this cost down by sharing our books with Wroughton Parish Council.
- NHS Bench – Installed at Lower Recreation Field – Complete
- Wild Flower Trial Area – Next to the Church
Certain flowers have grown well – Primroses, Cowslip, Ox-eye daisy & Foxgloves, others haven't taken so well.
Difficulties include – Keeping certain weeds down that swamp the wild flowers, takes considerable amount of work but seems to be appreciated as a good idea.

9. Rotten Row Highway Verge

An item that has been brought to the committee's attention. It looks like a local resident has installed wooden stumps along the curb edge on a highway verge to try and prevent cars parking on the verge. Due to the height and location of the stumps they are a hazard for pedestrians.

ACTION Clerk to report to SBC Highways to inspect.

Meeting Closed at 9.10pm.