



BLEDLow-CUM-SAUNDERTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Maintenance Committee held at Bledlow Ridge Village Hall on Monday 14th June 2021 at 7.30pm

Present: Councillors: N Cox, A Sage, S Reading (Chair)
Clerk: Tracey Martin
Nick Ingram as a member of the public

1. **Apologies for absence:** None
2. **Declaration of Interest:** None
3. **Approval of Minutes:**
It was agreed by those councillors present that the minutes of the meeting held on 12th April 2021 where a true and accurate account of the meeting and the minutes were approved.
4. **Members of the Public Invited to Speak:** Nick Ingram informed the meeting that around £1100 had been raised for the new bench. A sustainably sourced and green leaf certified four-seater bench to purchase had been identified. The bench will include inscriptions "Made us smile in 2021", "Paid for by the supporters of the teddies" with a teddy bear in the middle. Nick Ingram reported that there will be an excess of money which will either be donated to charity or used for the opening ceremony. Discussions were had on the location at The Crest and the possibility of the bench being removable to allow for hedge cutting. Ongoing maintenance will fall to the Parish Council with the bench being added to the Parish Council asset register. The Clerk reported that as the land is devolved to the Parish Council, permission will be needed from Buckinghamshire Council. Clerk to make enquiries with the LAT to get timescales of when the bench can be installed.
Action: Clerk
5. **To discuss and agree on amended terms of reference and supporting budget information.**
 - 5.1. After discussions it was agreed that the Terms of Reference would be updated to include authorisation of works up to £1k per month with a maximum value of £6K per year. Terms of reference will be presented at the Full Council meeting on the 1st July 2021 for approval.
6. **Devolved Services: Any outstanding issues**
 - 6.1. Cllr Cox suggested that the Parish Council should consider taking on additional areas of grass within the 30mph limit under devolved services. Cllr Sage to draft and circulate a list of potential areas.
Action: Cllr Sage
 - 6.2. It was highlighted that footpath 66/1 (55461) and 45/6 (62678) need cutting back. **Action: Clerk**
 - 6.3. It was agreed to post on Facebook and the website asking residents to inform the Parish Council if they notice any overgrown footpaths.
Action: Clerk
7. **Meadow Styles:**
 - 7.1. **Costings for Rubber Mulch:** Quotes had been received from three companies. After discussions it was agreed a proposal would be prepared for full council recommending Reid's Playground Maintenance for the works. Cllr Reading to prepare the proposal. **Action: Cllr Reading**
 - 7.2. **To Consider Purchasing New Signage:** The Clerk reported that the signs have been damaged and become worn. It was agreed to purchase two new signs at a cost of £50 each. **Action: Clerk**
8. **Parish Maintenance:**
 - 8.1. **Bins:** As no progress has been made Councillors will raise this issue with Cllr Etholen at the July Parish Council meeting.
 - 8.2. **Removal of concrete outside The Lions:** The Clerk reported that she had asked a contractor to have a look at the works required. The Contractor had informed the Clerk that it would be very expensive. As Cllr Breese requested this be carried out Clerk is awaiting a response from Cllr Breese if he still wishes to proceed. If the response is in favour of proceeding Clerk to obtain quotes.
 - 8.3. **To consider the appointment of a tree contractor for a set term:** Unfortunately, the Clerk had been unable to put together a spec for the meeting so this will be deferred to the July meeting.
 - 8.4. **Topple Tester for Gravestones:** The Clerk had circulated a report ahead of the meeting as she'd had a demonstration of the Topple Tester with an officer from Buckinghamshire Council. The recommendation of the government is for hand tests to be carried out so the Parish Maintenance Committee decided not to pursue the option of a topple tester. Clerk to look into training options and ensure that insurance cover is in place for Clerk / Councillors to carry out checks on

headstones. Once insurance cover is confirmed Cllr Sage and the Clerk will carry out an inspection. Cllr Sage to try and obtain a plotted map of Bledlow Churchyard.

Action: Clerk / Cllr Sage

- 8.5. **Consider options for glass front for Bledlow noticeboard:** It had been reported to the Clerk that the noticeboard in Bledlow is in a wind trap and the notices fly off. Clerk to obtain quotes for the Parish Maintenance Committee to consider.

Action: Clerk

9. **Flooding Issues:**

- 9.1. **Sandpit Lane Bledlow:** Clerk to make enquiries with residents as to whether the ditches have been cleared. If they have the Clerk will contact the LAT to arrange for work on the gullies.

Action: Clerk

- 9.2. **North Mill Road, Bledlow:** This has been chased up today with the LAT.

10. **CIL Eligible Projects:**

- 10.1. **Identifying Projects:** None discussed.

- 10.2. **Bench Update:** Clerk reported that the bench which had been removed from outside the Lions has now been repaired. The plan is to relocate the bench beside the bus shelter opposite Southfield Farm. Clerk to obtain permission from Buckinghamshire Council.

Action: Clerk

Cllr Cox suggested a bench should be considered for Saunderton Burial Ground by the War Memorial. Some Councillors felt that it wouldn't be well used due to the number of walkers in that area. Cllr Reading to make enquiries with the church.

Action: Cllr Reading

Cllr Reading reported that it had been mentioned to him that a bench should be considered coming off the ridgeway off Hemley Hill.

- 10.3. **Review of action plan for spending projects:** None discussed removed from agenda.

11. **Correspondence, reports and issues:**

- 11.1. Cllr Sage raised the issue of the state of the footpath from the Cricket Club down to Bottom Road. It was agreed that the member of the public who had reported the issue should report it directly to Rights of Way.

12. **Next meeting:**

The next meeting is scheduled for 12th July 2021 at Bledlow Village Hall.

Meeting closed at 8.52pm

Signed.....

Date.....