



BLEDLOW-CUM-SAUNDERTON PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Maintenance Committee held at Bledlow Village Hall on
Monday 15th November 2021 at 7.30pm

Present: Councillors: S Reading (Chair), N Cox, A Sage
Clerk: Tracey Martin

48. **Apologies for absence:** As the meeting with quorate Cllr Breese was not required to attend.
49. **Declaration of Interest:** None
50. **Approval of Minutes:**
It was agreed by those councillors present that the minutes of the meeting held on 13th September 2021 where a true and accurate account of the meeting and the minutes were approved.
51. **Members of the Public Invited to Speak:** No members of public present.
52. **Review of actions from previous meeting**
41.10: Clerk to write content for newsletters / FB etc. regarding disposal of grass clippings. Completed
43: Cllr Sage and Clerk to visit Meadow Styles to review slide orientation / safety. Completed
44.1: Clerk – Land registry check of concrete removal area by noticeboard in Bledlow Completed
44.3: Clerk to obtain another quote for removal of concrete outside The Lions: Outstanding
53. **Devolved Services:**
53.1. The Clerk reported that there will be a 3% increase on the devolved services payment for 2022/23.
53.2. Unfortunately, the Clerk had not received any update on the additional areas which the Parish Council would like to take on. Clerk to chase. **Action: Clerk**
54. **Meadow Styles: To consider quote for works at Meadow Styles including Rubber Mulch and changing the orientation of the slide. .**
54.1. Discussions were had on the quote which had been received from Reid's Playground Maintenance to have Rubber Mulch placed in the high traffic areas at Meadow Styles, change the orientation of the slide which is currently a safety issue and a ton of sand total cost £3,250 + VAT. Subject to clarification on the walkway highlighted in the quote and also checking the lease map for the works to the gate Councillors approved for the quote to be recommended at the December Full Council meeting.
55. **Parish Maintenance:**
55.1. **Bins:** The Clerk reported that Buckinghamshire Council will be removing the dog waste bin and waste contained inside at a cost of £250. This should be completed in the next 14 days.
55.2. **Removal of concrete outside The Lions:** Unfortunately, a second quote had been not received by the contractor recommended. Clerk to follow up. **Action: Clerk**
55.3. **Consider removal of concrete in front of noticeboard in Bledlow:** Councillors discussed this issue and decided not to take any further action on this matter.
55.4. **Management of Holy Trinity Grass Cutting:** Following a meeting with the Church Warden an email had been received confirming what the Church would like to see: Churchyard mown twice a year in July and second in October / November and for the northern part of the site (behind the Church) a third cut which would be after the primroses have flowered so April or May. The Church Warden had also requested that a reticulation mower be used rather than a strimmer or at least a mower that collects the grass clippings. Clerk to liaise with current contractor as to whether he has the appropriate equipment or would be able to hire and recharge the Parish Council. If current contractor unable to meet the above request Clerk to go out to tender. **Action: Clerk**
55.5. **The Crest Consultation on grass and hedge works:** Cllr Sage circulated a draft consultation for review. Councillors approved of the Consultation which will be distributed with Contact Magazine in December or January depending on deadlines.

It was agreed that for this year the Clerk will obtain a quote to bring the top down to circa 7ft, to coppice trees in the hedge to just above ground level and to hard flail one side and the other side be trimmed.

Action: Clerk

Cllr Cox stated that a resident had complained that a BT cable is going through the tree on The Crest next to the bus stop. Clerk to contact Openreach.

Action: Clerk

55.6. Review quote for repairing of headstones at Bledlow and Saunderton Burial Ground:

Discussions were had on the previously circulated quote and whether it would be appropriate for the Parish Council to pay to resurrect headstones. The following actions were agreed:

Saunderton Churchyard: Obtain quote for all to be 4 headstones to be stood up due to them being easier to repair.

Bledlow Churchyard: Due to the age of the headstones the following was agreed:

Fenced headstone: to be made safe, other 3 headstones to be laid correctly with inscriptions visible.

Action: Clerk

The Clerk reported that she had received an email from a relative of ones of the headstones which it had been laid down. It was agreed that the Clerk would respond explaining that the Parish Council is responsible for ensuring that the Churchyard is maintained so as to be a safe place to visit. Our auditors/insurers require us to test all gravestones and memorials for stability and any which are found unsafe will be carefully laid flat.

55.7. Faculty application for headstones: It was agreed to defer completing these forms until the quote has been received for 55.6 above so that the works can be included.

55.8. Community Board Benches: Discussions were had on potential locations. As the Community Board is at this stage only gaging interest and there is no commitment Clerk to respond to the Community Board Coordinator that the Parish Council potentially would be interested in four benches.

Action: Clerk

56. Correspondence, reports and issues:

56.1. The Clerk reported that Buckinghamshire Councils contract with TfB is due to end in 2023.

56.2. Cllr Sage stated that the bench which had been installed at Routs Green had been positively received with excellent feedback.

56.3. Cllr Cox raised a concern with the new field entrance from the B4009 on the right-hand side of the road heading towards Princes Risborough a little way beyond the turning up into Perry Lane where there appears to be no drainage/soakaway included in the entrance. As the entrance slopes upwards away from the road any rainwater run-off from the field will end up in the road and suggested a gully should be installed. Clerk to contact the Local Area Technician to discuss.

Action: Clerk

57. Next meeting: The next meeting of the Parish Maintenance Committee will be on Monday 17th January 2022 – Location to be confirmed.

Meeting closed at 9pm

Signed.....

Date.....