

## **ECCLESTON PARISH COUNCIL OPEN SPACES COMMITTEE**

**MINUTES** of the Remote Meeting held on 26 November 2020.

Present Cllrs M Miller (Chairman), C Heath, D Miller and H Thomas.

Also present Cllr A Whittaker and 2 Members of the public.

### 19.20 Apologies for Absence

No received.

### 20.20 Disclosure of Personal/Prejudicial Interests

None declared.

### 21.20 Minutes of the Meeting held on 27 February 2020

Resolved: the Minutes (as circulated) were approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

Resolved: Standing Orders were suspended.

### 22.20 Public Participation

The Poppies displayed on the Village Green have been cleaned for storage. The residents responsible for the display were thanked by the Committee.

Resolved: Standing Orders were restored.

### 23.20 Millennium Green

Residents of properties of Newlands had requested Birch trees be reduced in height. A contractor has confirmed the trees are healthy and in good condition and, as they are not dead, diseased, dying or dangerous work would not be carried out under the Council's Tree Policy. A clause in the lease agreement with Lancashire County Council was raised which refers to the Millennium Green Trust, of which the Council is the sole trustee, not allowing anything to cause a 'nuisance' to neighbouring properties. Enquiries are to be made to ascertain whether the trees do constitute a 'nuisance'.

Quotations for works including removal of the raised bed and overgrown bushes were considered.

Resolved: the work, excluding the hire of the long reach digger, was approved.

### 24.20 Village Green

A revised suggestion to locate a flagpole in the Christmas tree socket for the time the tree was not up was put forward. Enquiries are to be made regarding some form of insert which would allow the existing socket to be used.

Quotations to relay the flags under the tree seat were considered.

Resolved: the work to level the flagged area was approved.

### 25.20 Recreation Ground

A request from elderly residents for additional seats around the fields was considered. Members are to inspect the area and provide suggestions for locations. The Football Club will be provided with details of the locations to ensure there are no health and safety issues regarding the distance from the playing surface.

A petition from residents for improvements to the play equipment had been referred by Full Council. Members acknowledged improvements are necessary and agreed replacement of the equipment is required rather than refurbishment. The formation of a working group comprising committee members and residents to provide suggestions for improvements and equipment was suggested and all members of the committee expressed a wish to be involved.

Resolved: a working group, comprising committee members and residents, is to be formed.

#### 26.20 Updates

Hawthorns Play Area - Chorley Council's Executive Member's approval for the release of the funds is still awaited.

#### 27.20 2021-22 Budgets

The Committee has devolved decision-making powers on matters relating to open spaces in the control of the Parish Council and authority to approve spending from the relevant associated budgets (Grounds Maintenance, Flowers/Planting, Litter Bins, Millennium Green, Play Areas and Repairs and Replacements of these items).

It was suggested to reduce the number of operational budgets to two, with a grounds maintenance budget of £5000 and the remainder being incorporated into an Open Spaces budget of £10000. £15000 of CIL monies is to be requested to be set aside for the play area.

There being no further business the Chairman declared the meeting closed.