

ECCLESTON PARISH COUNCIL OPEN SPACES COMMITTEE

MINUTES of the Remote Meeting held on 25 March 2021.

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

Also present Cllr A Whittaker and 4 Members of the public.

01.21 Apologies for Absence

No received.

02.21 Disclosure of Personal/Prejudicial Interests

None declared.

03.21 Minutes of the Meeting held on 26 November 2020

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

Resolved: Standing Orders were suspended.

04.21 Public Participation

A resident Newlands complained of Birch trees on the Millennium Green shading the rear gardens of some properties and requested they be cut down or reduced in height by 50%.

Resolved: Standing Orders were restored.

05.21 Millennium Green

i) Members considered a request to remove or reduce the height of Birch trees to the rear of some properties on Newlands. In response to requests for advice, Chorley Council had confirmed trees are not normally reduced for shading issues.

Members were not in favour of removing the trees. It was mentioned the trees were 25m from properties, with 2 trees closer to the boundary fence and a suggestion to view the area in Summer, when the full extent of the shading can be evaluated, was put forward. It was also mentioned the shading occurred from 7:00pm onwards. Prior to any work a tree surgeon is to be contacted for advice on the best time to carry out the works and how much is to be removed from the trees.

Resolved: as the adopted Tree Procedure does not allow for work to trees under these circumstances, the Parish Council is to be asked to set aside the Tree Procedure in this instance.

ii) A request for assistance with suckers from the Blackthorn hedge travelling underground into the garden of a resident of Beechfields was considered. A contractor is to be approached for advice on how to resolve the issue.

iii) Further improvement works to the area were discussed. Two residents had contacted the Council offering suggestions for improvements to the pond area, a path around the pond and perimeter and replacement of the Oak sign board at the Red House Lane entrance.

Members agreed any works to paths or around the pond area should only be carried out once the installation of the path to the rear of Eccleston Primary School has been completed.

Members suggested using the soil from the removed raised beds to level out hollows to the rear of the seats. The fruit trees require pruning and membranes around the bases of some of the trees need removing. The edges of the path need cutting back and, following the application of preserver to the Oak board, the metalwork is to be painted.

6.21 Recreation Ground

Locations for three additional seats around the fields was considered. Suggestions are to be mapped and distributed to Members.

Following receipt of a petition from residents for improvements to the play equipment contact had been established with residents and a crowd funding scheme set up. The Chairman is to take part in a virtual meeting with the fundraising group in the near future.

A resident had contacted the Council advising of flooding problems on the crushed stone path and the tarmac path near the play area. Prices are to be obtained for the topping up of the crushed stone path perimeter path and entrance areas.

7.21 Chorley Open Space, Sports and Recreation Strategy Action Plan 2020-2036

A consultation was considered. Chorley Council is to be advised of the Committee's disagreement with the description of play areas on The Hawthorns, Drapers Avenue and Middlewood Close as offering "high quality provision for children and young people"

8.21 Planting for 2021

Planting of the new beds by Verdes were discussed. The Committee was advised the original plan for a group of residents to plant up beds with herbs and sensory plants may no longer be the case so the beds are to be included with the regular planting scheme.

Suggestions for raised beds at the entrance to The Hawthorns and wildflower planting are to be researched.

9.21 Unauthorised Access onto Parish Council Land

The installation of unauthorised gates onto parish council owned land by residents was discussed. Chorley Council Officers had advised requests for new accesses are usually declined.

Resolved: the parish council's insurers are to be contacted for advice regarding legal and insurance implications.

10.21 Updates

Village Green tree seat area - the flagged area has been relaid.

Locating a flagpole in the Christmas tree socket was not practical. Prices are to be obtained for a flagpole which would be installed adjacent to the socket.

Hawthorns Play Area - Chorley Council's Executive Member has finally approved the release of the funds s106 funds and a timescale is awaited.

11/21 Date of next Meeting

No date was set. The next meeting will be called by the Chairman when appropriate.

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