



Monday, 1st February 2021

Minutes of a meeting of Estates & Assets Committee, held remotely via Zoom, on Monday, 25th January 2021 at 8.00 pm.

Present: Cllrs S Andrews, R Ball, P Bricknell, R Cullen, P Jordan, Mrs S Knighton, Mrs C McGauley (Chairman), G Murrin, R. Parr and J Pyne.

Mr T Bennett (TW), Gavin Black(TW) and Mrs Judy Green (PW). Dst Cllr G Jung.

E&A/21.1	PUBLIC SESSION: <i>None.</i>
E&A/21.2	APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: <i>None.</i>
E&A/21.3	DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST: <i>None.</i>
E&A/21.4	UPDATE ON P3: Mrs Judy Green (PW) explained that P3 was running well, with new signage being a success. Repairs have been regularly undertaken and regular strimming is an obvious requirement. There remains the challenge of dog fouling, which is a continuing problem.
E&A/21.5	<p>UPDATE FROM TREE WARDENS: It was noted there was a need for a Tree Warden at Exton, but there are only rare requests for advice. Tony Bennett said he was happy to take on the role, but Cllr Mrs C McGauley stated she would ultimately like a resident from Exton. Cllr G Jung explained, at EDDC, they are rethinking about the roles of TWs and it would be a good idea for new additions. Tree planting was also noted as being a useful addition to their skill set, if required.</p> <p>Mr T Bennett mentioned that under the TW scheme there is an offer of a disease resistant Elm and suggested a position near the recently removed Chestnut, on the New Plantation, would be a suitable place to plant it. He noted, generally, TWs struggle to find areas to plant substantial trees.</p> <p>RESOLVED: to put to WPC, as an agenda item, the planting of the Elm on the New Plantation, with a WPC funded plaque.</p>

E&A/21.6	<p>SET ASIDE AREAS: The Clerk explained four areas WPC would like to be as ‘set aside’ being an area of the Wood Salt New Plantation, Devon Bank - Flower Street Car Park, back of the War Memorial and front of the Green, opposite St Swithun’s. Cllr Mrs C McGauley also explained that the privately owned area to the back of the War Memorial would be best put to grass, with the land owner’s permission, as it would be difficult to plant much else. Mr T Bennett suggested that it was also possible to plant pollinators or wild hedgerow. On a wider issue, he felt interested parties should provide WPC with a presentation as to how to enhance and improve wildlife within the Parish. Cllr G Jung agreed but felt ‘set aside’ was probably not the right term, as WPC do not have a huge amount of available land, but they would like to dedicate suitable areas to enhance natural plants and wildlife. Mr G Black explained this would need public acceptance as these areas will have periods that don’t always look attractive, as they go through their natural cycle, but felt it was possible to add useful plantation. Cllr Mrs C McGauley underlined the importance that, for interested parties, they must take responsibility for managing areas and they should not ‘fall by the wayside’. They should communicate regularly with WPC on this, as well as the wider community. She was keen that those with a strong interest in repairing habitat are supported, whilst recognising the confines of Woodbury’s more heavily populated areas. Cllr P Bricknell agreed with this, underlining the importance of managing chosen areas, which will inevitably involve, on occasions, removing plant debris etc. He reminded attendees strimming of the New Plantation is on WPC’s grass cutting contract. Mr Gavin Black felt that plant debris can form an important part of habitat but recognised visual impact has an importance, representing a need to communicate this with Parishioners, via a habitat management plan. Cllr R Ball showed support for this approach, underlining communication and a management plan is essential. Cllr C McGauley offered to remove the strimming (twice a year) from the WPC grass cutting contract, for the said area of the New Plantation, if required. It was generally mentioned that more should be made of the Plantation, with the suggestion there might be wildlife signage for the benefit of children.</p>
E&A/21.7	<p>PLAY AREAS: Cllr Mrs C McGauley highlighted that the fencing around the play area on the Village Green needs replacing, and expressed concerns the hedge row running along the fence to St Swithun’s is hazardous and needs attention. If it holds any form of protected status then an approach from the TWs as how to manage it would be appreciated. Cllrs noted the need to address red areas highlighted by the recent playground inspections but felt the greatest concern mentioned was regarding the swings in Woodbury Salterton, on closer inspection, they appear to be sound in construction.</p>
E&A/21.8	<p>ASSETS REQUIRING ATTENTION: The Clerk spoke to confirm that the fencing around the play area on the Village Green needs replacing, as previously mentioned. Three quotes to be obtained.</p>
E&A/21.9	<p>DEVON AIR AMBULANCE NIGHT LANDING SITE: Cllr R Ball explained that a potential DAA grant remains in place at present. Continued investigations are required to confirm the optimal landing site. There is a possibility of additional match funding from DCC that, alongside an approval of WPC funds, could allow the project to come to fruition.</p>
E&A /21.10	<p>ANY OTHER ITEMS REGARDING THE PARISH ESTATE AND ASSETS: Cllr P Jordan explained he was continuing his investigations, alongside Cllr Mrs S Knighton, into the possibilities of improving the Flower Street area and the potential conversion of the public toilets into a greater amenity use. Cllr C McGauley advised the landscaping of the car park presented an opportunity to improve the area and felt WPC had funds to attain this.</p>

Meeting ended 21.45 pm

Actions	Responsible
Habitat Management Plan	TWs and other interested parties
Path to St Swithun's from the Green - hedge management advice required	TWs
Quotes for play park fencing on the Green	Clerk
Red areas highlighted by recent play park reports	Clerk and respective WPC Cllrs, by ward
Planting of the Elm to be put on the next agenda	Clerk
Flower Street	Clerk to obtain at least three quotes for landscaping