

## CHALFONT ST. GILES PARISH COUNCIL

The meeting of the Open Spaces and Amenities Committee was held on Wednesday 15 March 2017 at the Gardens Association Hall, School Lane at 8pm.

Present: Cllr G Patrick (Chairman), Cllr D Bray, Cllr R Gill, Cllr R Massey Cllr M Phillips, Cllr C Santry and the Clerk.

### Public Forum:

Kathleen Martin from Revitalisation asked the council whether the groundsmen could weed spray the Riverside Walk. This function had previously been carried out by a contractor but this was no longer possible. The Clerk said that this was possible as the groundsmen were now qualified to carry out weed spraying.

Melanie Marshall and Carrie Swallow from Chalfont St Giles Pre School Group asked whether the Dell in Bowstridge Lane could be used for 'Forest School'. They explained the benefits of children interacting with the natural woodland environment. A fire would be used approximately once a term but it is contained within a fire basket which is removed at the end of the session. Forest School Insurance would be put in place. Sessions would run during term time.

1. **Apologies for absence:** Cllr J Chamberlain.
2. **Minutes of the meeting held on 18 January 2017 report 03/17:** Were agreed.
3. **Declarations of Interest:** None.
4. **Clerks report:** Noted.
5. **Correspondence:**
  - 5.1. **Request to establish a parkrun from CDC – circulated by email.** A suggestion for the run to go through the village and up Stratton Chase Drive and around the footpaths. Route to be suggested to CDC.
6. **Correspondence received after the agenda was circulated:** None.
7. **Current Matters:**
  - 7.1. **To discuss the developments in the heritage trail project:** Cllr Gill had a selection of QR codes on different surfaces. The materials were relatively inexpensive. Tests to see how they stand up to graffiti would be carried out. These will then be tested in the village environment. The next step is to get someone to lead in the data collection, perhaps a student for their EPQ. Clerk to approach local schools and colleges. **Action the clerk.**
  - 7.2. **To update on the Market on the village green:** Cllrs Gill and Bray in their roles as representatives of BAT4CSG had been liaising with Duck Pond Markets. The market would be on the village green on Saturday 18 March. There will be representatives from BAT4CSG in attendance to ensure that the market runs smoothly. Duck Pond Markets had been asked to diversify the market stalls currently represented in the market. There were also ongoing discussions regarding the notice to quit period required. A full record of requirements for the

market on the village green should be created. Clerk to forward byelaws for the village green to BAT4CSG. **Action the clerk.**

- 7.3. To discuss pond maintenance:** A quotation had been received for maintenance of the village pond. This was to clean the pond and treat with a nontoxic chemical that will help to clear the water. It was agreed that other quotations should be sought and signs to prevent feeding bread to the ducks. **Action the clerk.**
- 7.4. To discuss tree lighting by the village pond:** A quotation had been received for lighting the willow tree. It was agreed to obtain more quotes for this work. **Action the clerk.**
- 7.5. To discuss the best kept village competition:** The scouts and guides had agreed to help with the preparations for the competition. Clean up date to be decided and circulated.
- 7.6. To agree to a new litter bin being installed in the cemetery near to the compost bins:** There was agreement to installing a bin in the cemetery. The cost of a bin similar to those in the rest of the recreation ground was over £500. The clerk will seek other quotes. **Action the clerk.**
- 7.7. To agree to Groundsman training courses:** Two training courses were agreed. Sports pitch maintenance and ROSPA playground inspections.
- 7.8. To discuss the offer of volunteers from the Buckinghamshire Building Society:** There were events like the village show that would require volunteers. Cllr Gill to contact the Building society. **Action Cllr Gill.**
- 7.9. To resolve to remove the Silver Birch Tree that is obscuring the cricket wicket:** The memorial records had been checked and there was no record of the Silver Birch tree being a memorial tree. The council agreed to have the tree removed. Cllr Phillips asked for caution to be exercised when removing trees from public spaces. It was agreed that the Clerk would seek advice from the tree and landscape officer at Chiltern District Council and if this was favourable then the tree would be removed.
- 7.10. To agree to the replacement of the two strimmers currently in use by the groundsmen:** The strimmers were over 8 years old and were of a single handle design which puts strain on the lower back when used for long periods. The new stihl strimmer has a bike handle which is ergonomically designed for ease of use and for prolonged use. It was agreed that two replacement strimmers should be purchased and the old strimmers should be sold.
- 7.11. To investigate wildflower areas:** Amersham Town Council had provided details about their wildflower verges. Areas were suggested for wildflower verges in the parish, further costings would be investigated.
- 7.12. To find out more about a village information pack for new residents:** Deferred to next meeting.
- 7.13. To discuss the use of Bowstridge Lane by a resident for a fundraiser -referred from Council meeting 10/17:** As no further information about this event has been forthcoming the committee decided that they would not support this request.
- 7.14. To discuss the addition of a bench by the bus stop opposite the village green-referred from Council meeting 10/17:** Deferred to next meeting

- 7.15. To discuss a commemoration of the life of Hilary Warner - referred from Council meeting 10/17:** It was agreed that the foyer of the Memorial Hall could be used when the Parish Council hold their Annual Parish Meeting. If this was not suitable then the scout hall could be made available for a longer period and the Parish Council could make a donation towards the costs of hall hire. This all must be done with the consent of the family.
- 7.16. To discuss Forest School in the Dell - referred from Council meeting 10/17:** See public forum. The Committee agreed unanimously that the Forest School should be given permission to use the Dell during term time providing relevant and adequate insurance cover is provided.
- 7.17. To discuss a traffic island on the A413 - referred from Council meeting 10/17:** Information had been requested from TfB and HS2 regarding any road works planned for Bottom House Farm Lane. If works were planned then perhaps an island could be installed at the same time. A community fund has been made available by HS2 to benefit communities blighted by HS2, the committee would look into this as a possible funding source. A suggestion was also made to ask Bucks County Council school transport to provide a taxi service for the school children during the building works.
- 8. Payment of Accounts:** Cheques were agreed and signed in meeting.
- 9. Items for future agendas: To forward the reinstatement of the water supply at the cemetery to F&GP for approval.**
- 10. Date of next meeting:** Wednesday 19 April 2017

