

CHALFONT ST. GILES PARISH COUNCIL

The meeting of the Open Spaces and Amenities Committee was held on Wednesday 19 September 2018 at the Gardens Association Hall, School Lane at 8pm.

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

Public Forum: Community Liaison Officer Anne-Marie Brannigan attended the meeting along with ecology officer Neil Melleney. They introduced a report on the possible actions required for pond improvements including removing the sediment, ensuring the petrol interceptor tanks are cleaned regularly, adding reed beds to filter out the road water particles and planting in the edges of the pond. A grant could be sought for a feasibility study and for the work to be carried out.

- 1. Apologies for absence:** Cllr D Bray, Cllr J Chamberlain.
- 2. Minutes of the meeting held on 18 July 2018 report 33/18:** Were agreed and signed in meeting.
- 3. Declarations of Interest:** None.
- 4. Correspondence:** None.
- 5. Correspondence received after the agenda was circulated:**
 - 5.1. An update from the Bowling Club re the water supply problems and a possible solution:** To be added to the next agenda.
 - 5.2. An explanation from BLAA re new structure at the Allotment site:** To be added to the next agenda.
- 6. Current Matters:**
 - 6.1. To update on devolved services:** Only one more grass cut this season and then the winter works schedule begins. Councillors were asked to update the clerk with any areas needing attention during the winter months.
 - 6.2. To update the Tree Survey:** The contractor had left branches and chipping at the pond area/Riverside Walk as well as branches left in the cemetery and recreation ground. Once the contractor informs us that he has concluded the work the Head Groundsman will check that all areas are clear of debris and that all of the contracted trees have been cut.
 - 6.3. To update on the arson(s) at the Recreation Ground and subsequent recommendations:** The area behind the bowling club was used to store the hedge cuttings etc. which have accumulated from the groundsman's work, as well as the cuttings from the bowling club. The pile had not been burnt because of the exceptionally dry weather and also our risk assessment which requires two groundsmen to be present when a fire is started. This meant that the burning pile was larger than usual. This would not have been burnt at one time however it was set fire to by arsonists. The result was a grass fire which extended to the bowling club which burnt the perimeter fence causing damage to nine fence panels. The Fire Officer who attended the site stated that a fire should not have been set so close to the fence. Other areas for a fire have been investigated in the past and this location is the only area in the recreation ground suitable. If we cannot have a fire then we must invest in a chipper machine and resultant towing equipment, training etc. Clerk to investigate the costs of chipper and ancillary equipment.

- 6.4. To update on the recruitment of new groundsman:** Two applications had been received and interviews would take place on Friday 21 September.
 - 6.5. To update on request to maintain the cycle path:** Cllr Butcher from Buckinghamshire County Council had been contacted to ask for a co-ordinated approach to cycle path maintenance.
 - 6.6. To discuss the village pond:** A report should be commissioned by Chiltern Rangers using their chalk stream expert to guide them. This could then form the basis of a feasibility study and grant applications.
 - 6.7. To agree the dates and times for the Christmas Lights Switch on Ceremony:** The switch on date would be either the 24th or the 1st December with turn off on 6 January. Daily times from 3.30pm to midnight.
 - 6.8. To discuss installing dog harnessing points in the village centre:** The Clerk was asked to provide costs for adding dog harnessing points in the village – also to assess whether there were planning/conservation area permissions required.
- 7. Payment of Accounts:** None.
 - 8. Items for future agendas:**
 - 9. Date of next meeting:** Wednesday 17 October 2018

Meeting closed 10.06pm