

CHALFONT ST. GILES PARISH COUNCIL

The meeting of the Open Spaces and Amenities Committee was held on Wednesday 18 March 2020 at Gardens Association Hall, School Lane at 8.00pm.

Present: Cllr M Philips (Chairman of the meeting), Cllr D Bray, Cllr J Chamberlain, Cllr R Gill, Cllr D Vilicans-Moody and the Clerk.

Public Forum: None.

- 1. Apologies for absence:** Cllr G Patrick
- 2. Minutes of the meeting held on 19 February 2020 08/20:** Were agreed and signed in meeting.
- 3. Clerks notes:** Noted.
- 4. Correspondence:**
 - 4.1. Letter re planting more trees and cutting verges less:** Plans were already in place to plant more trees and shrubs in the Parish. The village green needs to be kept well cut but the pond area may be able to be left a little longer.
- 5. Correspondence received after the agenda was circulated:** None.
- 6. Current Matters:**
 - 6.1. To discuss devolved services contract:** As the issue with trees has been resolved, Cllr Phillips signed the new devolved services contract.
 - 6.2. To update the plan to plant disease resistant elm trees on Townfield Lane:** This has still received no response from Chiltern District Council.
 - 6.3. To update on The Conservation Volunteers green gym:** An update has been requested, though a new start date of September 2020 has been suggested.
 - 6.4. To discuss cemetery issues:** The owner of plot C112 had been identified and contacted and a request made for the stone and kerb set to be repaired. The wooden surround on plot C378 will be removed after contact with the owner. A resident has contacted the council asking for permission to be buried in the cemetery. She has lived in the village for 45years but moved away recently. This was agreed.
 - 6.5. To discuss the VE day commemorations:** Plans for celebrations have been put on hold due to the rules on social distancing and Coronavirus.
 - 6.6. To discuss taking part in the Great British Spring Clean:** This has been postponed due to Coronavirus.
 - 6.7. To discuss the next steps in the village pond renovation:** It was agreed to set up a working group with Revitalisation and to get further advice from Madencroft who had carried out the environmental survey on the pond.
 - 6.8. To discuss the damage caused to the village green by delivery vehicles:** A bill has been sent to Marsden Breweries for the sum of £958 to repair the current and earlier damage caused to the village green.
 - 6.9. To discuss the next steps in the creation of the new paths at the Recreation Ground at Bowstridge Lane:** An expert will need to draw up a spec for the work to be

carried out and then a tender document can be created. Clerk to speak to Kathleen Martin about Riverside walk.

7. Items for future agendas:

7.1. To discuss National Walk to School Week (18-22 May 2020): Cancelled.

The clerk asked for delegated authority to take over the decision making of the committees to allow the Council to continue during the period when meetings were cancelled due to Coronavirus. The following statement was read to the committee:

"In response to the Covid-19 outbreak in the UK and in the event that it is not possible to convene a meeting of the council in a reasonable time, the Clerk shall have delegated authority to make decisions on behalf of the council where such decision cannot reasonably be deferred and must be made in order to comply with a commercial or statutory deadline. The delegation does not extend to matters expressly reserved to the council in legislation or in its Standing Orders or Financial Regulations. Any decisions made under this delegation must be recorded in writing and must be published in accordance with the relevant regulations. This delegated authority ceases upon the first meeting of the council after the council meeting at which the delegation was put in place"

The clerk would relocate the office and begin working from home on Friday 20 March 2020.

An emergency pack is held with Cllr Chamberlain. The groundsmen will continue to work as best as they can whilst adhering to the social distancing rules. The head groundsman has taken the council laptop to work from home.

8. Date of next meeting: Wednesday 15 April 2020

Meeting closed at 10.03pm