



## **Minutes of the Open Spaces & Burial Ground Committee**

**Held on 9<sup>th</sup> April 2025 at 7.30pm in the Parish Office**

Present: Cllr L Pearson (in the Chair), Cllr G Gregory, Cllr J Beswick, Cllr. G. Knight, Cllr. B. Middleton, Roger Greatrex and Jennifer Marshall

**Public Open Forum** - no members of the public were in attendance.

### **1. To receive apologies and record absences**

All members were present.

### **2. To record any declarations of interest.**

No declarations of interest given.

### **3. To receive and confirm the minutes of the meetings held on 24<sup>th</sup> February 2025**

Two corrections noted:

- Next meeting date was incorrect. Amended.
- The Dog Walking area was not included. It was decided that the project would be shelved for the foreseeable future and ground conditions be looked at in more detail. Amended.

### **4. To consider any matters arising not elsewhere on the agenda**

- It was noted that the email contact for the tennis court contractor Charles Lawrence at All Courts is incorrect and bounces to a different email address.
- Cut fence along railway line on A518 reported to SBC in February, has yet to be repaired. It was noted that the steps to the railway line are not the legal public right of way, the public right of way is the adjacent slope. Steps are unsafe but accessed by public. Chief Officer to contact SBC to address safety concerns.
- It was determined that the cleaning of the picnic area benches and picnic tables are part of the handyman's remit.
- It was confirmed that Severn Trent own the Allotment access road and that the Council have an easement for access to the allotments. The Chief Officer to contact Severn Trent as the Council spent a significant sum maintaining the access under the assumption it was the Council's.
- The fence around the Power substation is in disrepair. Chief Officer to contact National Grid to advise that the area is not secure.
- A request has been made by a member of the public for the Council to consider the planting of more trees around the Parish. The cost of maintaining the existing trees was discussed and the subcommittee will recommend that the Council do not to plant additional trees in Gnosall for the foreseeable future.

## **5. To discuss any maintenance requirements including:**

### **Handyman Duties**

The handyman and Roger Greatrex will assess the safety of the play parks on Monday 14<sup>th</sup> April. The safety of the wooden gate to the cemetery will also be assessed. Roger Greatrex suggested a galvanised metal gate painted black would be a satisfactory solution. Chief Officer to obtain quotes for next meeting.

Handyman to assess the information boards in the container and advise if he is able to repair or replace damaged elements.

### **Boardwalk Repairs**

Repairs are almost complete, as is the relocation of the seating platform. Cllr Pearson would like to extend her thanks to Dan Saberton for completing the repairs in such a successful and timely manner.

### **Brook maintenance**

Cllr Gregory will raise the issue at the Pre Project meeting and feedback. It was noted that the AFC, Sports Club, and school had been in discussion about the removing the obstruction for some time but no action had yet been taken.

Cllr Pearson advised that there were a number of sports balls stuck behind the metal grid on the culvert on the main road, which will impede the flow.

It was noted that the pipe from Wharf road into the access road was partially silted.

Chief Officer to contact Diane Firkin at Highways and advise her of the issues.

### **Red bus stop on Brookhouse Road**

The materials have been purchased and delivered. Roof needs to be collected. Cllr Pearson and Cllr Beswick offered to remove the old bus shelter. The old concrete slab needs to be demolished and cleared to make way for the laying of a new slab and building works.

Roger Greatrex to manage this project.

### **Noticeboards/Information boards**

Most are in good repair. The noticeboard in Moreton needs some attention, handyman to review.

### **Burial Ground - mole issue**

John Hall to assess and advise.

### **Sensory Garden**

Protective treatment of the wooden fixtures to be reviewed next spring.

It was noted that the water feature is not working. Chief Officer to check reservoir and power. A local Gnosall business has offered to make sensory garden directional signs, free of charge. These will be located on the High street. This was agreed.

**6. To organise the removal of rubbish from un-let allotments**

Cllr Pearson and Cllr Titley to arrange the relocation of the shed. Remaining equipment on unlet allotments will then be offered to allotment holders on a first come basis. Anything remaining after the cut-off date, will be cleared and removed from site, or bagged ready for the next Amenity visit in July.

**7. To review Tree Policy/tree inspection schedule**

It was agreed that Roger Greatrex would draft a plan of action, with the task broken into manageable areas. Volunteers will then undertake the tree tagging in each area.

**8. To consider any health and safety matters**

The tennis court posts and netting are unstable. The original contractor provided a quote to make good of £3750 plus VAT and accommodation following the inspection in February. Chief Officer to find alternative quotes.

**9. To consider any policy and risk assessment reviews**

None to review.

**10. To agree the date and time of the next meeting**

20<sup>th</sup> May 2025