Minutes of the Open Spaces Committee Meeting

Held on 20th June 2022 at 7.30pm in the Grosvenor Centre.

Present: Cllr T Simkin (in the chair), Cllr G Symons, Cllr R Greatrex, Cllr K Ingram, Cllr K Johnstone, Cllr D Webb, Cllr M Holmes and Jayne Cooper, Clerk/RFO

Public Open Forum - None present

1. **To elect a Chair and Vice Chair**

   Cllr Simkin was elected Chair and Cllr Greatrex was elected Vice Chair.

2. **To receive apologies and record absences**

   Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr Mills and Cllr Gregory.

   Absences – Cllr Tomkinson.

3. **To record any declarations of interest**

   There were no declarations of interest.

4. **To receive and confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 21st March 2022**

   The minutes were approved as a true and accurate record.

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

   There were no matters arising

6. **To receive an update on the recent tree inspection including work planned and areas not covered during the inspection**

   The Clerk had summarised the tree inspection report to define urgent work and areas that require monitoring. The Acres, including Chippy Jumps, as well as the field to the rear of the Grosvenor Centre had been inspected. The inspection had found that 24 trees required attention of which 19 required felling. A specification had been sent to four companies to carry out the urgent work, three of which had confirmed they would be interested in quoting for the works required. The

contractor who had carried out the inspection had confirmed he had not got the time to carry out the work. Quotations would be received in the next week and an Open Spaces Committee meeting would be called to review the quotations with a view to appointing a contractor.

It was acknowledged that a further inspection would be needed on The Village Green, The Wold and probably The Burial Ground.

The committee to note the areas that require monitoring and ensure that adequate monitoring is carried out in the timescales suggested.

7. To prioritise jobs for 2022/23.

In light of the costs associated with the tree work, it was agreed to postpone the replacement of small areas of safety surfacing at the play park, there is no danger, therefore it was felt that was not needed this year. It was agreed the two urgent jobs to be dealt with during 2022/23 are tree work and vegetation clearance from the book as well as necessary maintenance as and when the need arises. These projects would exceed Open Spaces Maintenance budget therefore Council would be asked to consider using some of reserve funds to cover some of the costs of the tree felling.

8. To agree any maintenance requirements and discuss the management of inspections

Councillors had been tasked with carrying out inspections of The Boardwalk, recreation areas, benches & noticeboards, the Village Green and The Wold. Feedback from inspection carried out was received and once all inspections are completed, a list of maintenance jobs would be circulated. Cllr Greatrex offered to fix two simple gate issues at the Brookhouse Road play park, the Clerk would contact a local cleaning contractor about cleaning the benches and would contact the BKV team leader about strimming around recently planted trees.

9. To consider correspondence including:

a) Correspondence regarding ball games on The Wold

A local resident had expressed concerns about ball games being played on The Wold and the ball being kicked against her boundary fence. The Clerk and Chair of Open Spaces believed The Wold is a designated recreational space. It was, therefore, agreed not to take any immediate action hoping this was an isolated case but to monitor the area.

b) Request for a bench on The Village Green

This was considered however as there are already four benches on the Village Green, it was felt by some there was no need for any additional benches. A vote was taken with the majority of councillors voting against adding any more benches.

10. To consider any Health and Safety matters including consideration of a draft Play Park Risk Assessment

Subject to one minor amendment, the Risk Assessment was approved. The Clerk to find out the recommended frequency of play area inspections.

11. To review the Terms of Reference

The following changes were agreed:

a) To amend the word Chairman to Chair

b) To add, within the finance section, that allotment and burial ground income would be ringfenced. It was noted that bank accounts for both allotment finances and burial ground finances would soon be opened.

12. To agree the date and time of the next meeting

To be arranged once three quotations had been received for tree work.

The meeting closed at 8.50pm