

Burwell Parish Council

Asset and Environment Group

Minutes of the Meeting of 22.2.22 7.30 pm (following PC Meeting) at Mandeville Hall

Present: Joan Lonsdale (Chair), Lea Dodds, Jim Perry, Derek Reader, Liz Swift, Michael Swift, Geraldine Tate, and Paul Webb.

Jenny Moss was in attendance for item A&E/220222/2.

A&E/220222/01 Apologies for absences and Declarations of Interests

There were no apologies for absence and no declarations were received at this point in the meeting.

A&E/220222/02 Approval of the minutes of the meeting held on 26<sup>th</sup> October 2021

The minutes of the meeting held on 26<sup>th</sup> October 2021 were approved.

A&E/220222/03 Disposal of grass arisings (wilded areas), suggestion for Pound Hill, and Bolton Close

Following the decision to allow some additional areas of Council land to be wilded at the Full Council meeting on 11<sup>th</sup> January 2022, the Clerk had received a telephone call from Truelink asking how the Council intended to dispose of the arising from the additional Areas. He had explained both cost implications for the disposal and the dangers of composting in large quantities.

The Clerk presented the following document:

<b>Area</b>	<b>Proposal</b>	<b>Disposal</b>
General:	<p>One allotment plot near to the Green Lane entrance has been left unoccupied. This is relatively accessible for a vehicle to unload arisings. With a large quantity of arisings there is a risk of combusting. There is also a risk of allotment holders using the plot for the disposal of their own waste.</p> <p>Other means of disposal would be hiring skips. In the past we have paid £235.00 for a 8 yard skip. Whilst a skip could easily be situated at Priory Meadow and the Cemetery, this may not be as easy at Pound Hill.</p> <p>Truelink has been asked to provide a price for clearing grass away from after a late summer cut for Priory Meadow, rear of the Cemetery and on Pound Hill but they have not come back to me.</p> <p>It is likely that a different method of disposal may be required for each of the areas.</p> <p>The main areas a solution needs to be found are Pound Hill, Priory Meadow, and the rear of the Cemetery.</p> <p>We need to remember that at the time when the wild areas need to be cut, George will already be spending much of his working week grass cutting around the village. As he has school age children, he is likely to be taking some annual leave during the school summer holidays.</p> <p>Additional help is likely to be required.</p> <p>The arising will not have completely decomposed by the time that the grass is ready to be cut again the following year.</p>	
County Council Verges including the Causeway	That the verges are managed in the same manner as 2021 with up to ten cuts per year.	Same as last year
Spring Close	To cut as per 2021 Hay Cut	Under contract grass cutting seasons 2022 and 2023 with grass being removed.

		Please be aware that collecting of hay by the contractor is becoming less cost effective due to contamination
Pauline's Swamp	To cut as per 2021	Under contract grass cutting seasons 2022 and 2023 with grass being removed. Please be aware that collecting of hay by the contractor is becoming less cost effective due to contamination
Priory Meadow	To be cut with grass collected, twice per year to encourage wildflower growth. One cut early in the season and one cut late summer. Footpaths to be cut to allow access to woods, benches etc. Discussion to be had with contractor to check that they have the necessary machinery to cut and collect grass and as to the cost implications for collecting the grass	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Arising from footpath cutting – cut using a mulching machine?</li> <li>2. Main field cuts: Options: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Heap in piles around the edge of the site as long as there are no water courses in the vicinity.</li> <li>b. Remove to other areas of PC owned land eg allotments</li> <li>c. Other removal</li> </ol> </li> </ol> <p><u>Concerns</u> Amount of work in moving arisings into heaps and time it will take will probably need more input other than George. Space available at allotment and transport time Combustion risk</p>
The Recreation Ground	Allow the perimeter of the field outside of the trim track to be established as wildflower areas. Regard will need to be given to cutting of the hedges in the spring and late autumn. Care must be taken to prevent weed growth on the exercise areas and on the tarmac trim track. For a Community Garden (benches etc) to be created on the area adjacent to the new car park, with the remaining area to be managed to encourage the growth of wildflowers. It is proposed that Wild Burwell could manage the wildflower areas at the Recreation Ground but would need to submit a plan detailing their intentions to the Council for approval first.	To create further areas for wildflowers.  Outside of trim track only.  <u>What happened last year</u> George cut the areas very late on in the season. The arisings etc. were very dry and mulched up without the need for clearing. Hedge Contractor cut lower shrubs etc. at ground level when the hedges were cut.

The Cemetery	To use the rear, currently unused, sections of the cemetery to be managed in a way to encourage wildflowers. The areas to be clearly marked as wildflower areas and have a cut border around the sections. The remainder of the cemetery to be cut in the same way as 2021.	Creation of further wildflower areas.  Options: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Heap in pile at the rear of the cemetery</li> <li>b. Remove to other areas of PC owned land eg allotments</li> <li>c. Other removal</li> </ul> <u>Concerns</u> Time to collect risings Grass arisings from Pound Hill from last year still present at the Cemetery Lack of space at the allotments
Junction of the Causeway and Silver Street	To be managed as a wildflower verge. Care needs to be taken with this area as it is an awkward junction for vehicles. Height of growth to be monitored to ensure visibility and area to have a cut edge	Creation of further wildflower area but awareness of the need for road safety.
Junction of Hall Lane and Park Road	To be managed as a wildflower area as in 2021	Managed in the same way as last year
Pound Hill	See suggestion from Jenny Moss. <u>Minutes of the PC Meeting 11.1.2022</u> Michael Swift suggested that the recommendation is a document in progress, with further investigation into wilding taking place through out the year, with any agreed changes being implemented for the 2023 season.  <b><i>Michael Swift proposed, seconded by Paul Webb that the recommendation as put forward by the Assets and Environment Group should be approved with some flexibility in the longer term. A vote was taken with 8 Councillors being in favour and three abstentions. Council resolved to approve the recommendations of the Asset and Environment Group.</i></b>  The Clerk requested some clarification regarding Pound	<u>Last Year</u> George last year spent about 7 hours clearing the area. Had heaped up a lot of the arisings prior to Wild Burwell helping (w/c 20.6.21). 5 or 6 trailer loads transported to the cemetery. A pile of arisings still remain.  <u>Options</u> Remove to another site eg cemetery or allotments Dispose of by other means

	Hill and whether areas designated for the wildflowers would be allocated from the start of the season. It was agreed that this should be the case.	
Bolton Close Areas all owned by ECDC	To support the request made by residents to Derah Seward (Wild Burwell) to ask ECDC to approve the planting of additional trees and shrubs to block the view of Ashgrove from Bolton Close.	Not only will this improve the outlook for Bolton Close residents but also of Ashgrove residents overlooking Bolton Close.

The Group discussed the issue and accepted that it may not be possible to find a solution for this Year, but could investigate options such as purchasing a machine that sweep the arising in readiness for the 2023 season if a means of affordable disposal could be found. There is no funding in the 2022/2023 budget to purchase equipment. Derek Reader agreed to find out the cost of suitable machinery. It was agreed that the buttercups on Pound Hill flourishing was not an issue, but Pound Hill apart from a couple of smaller areas needed to be cut once they started to die at the end of May. To allow some additional wilding on our property in 2022 it was suggested that a small area at Pound Hill, along the rear of the grassed area at the Cemetery, and a small area on Priory Meadow could be left to wild.

The following recommendation was agreed to be made to Full Council:

**Following further information received regarding the safe disposal of grass arising, the Assets and Environment Group recommends an amendment to the motion agreed at the Full Council on 11<sup>th</sup> January 2022 relating to the grass cutting schedule and wilding of certain Council properties, to reduce the areas allowed to wild on Pound Hill, the Cemetery and Priory Meadow, to the extent which will allow the arising from said areas to be disposed appropriately within the Council's means.**

The Clerk reported that Wild Burwell were having issues with contacting Sanctuary Housing regarding the grass area at Bolton Close.

Jenny Moss shared a plan for Pound Hill reflecting suggestions made by Nicola Hallows (Wild Burwell) at their recent meeting. Unfortunately, due to the issue with the disposal of the arisings, this could not be moved forward.

#### A&E/220222/04 Consideration of Action Sheet items and updates from minutes

Project	Update as of 26.10.21
Recreation Ground Car Park	Work to the car park has been completed. Meads to carry out snagging in March.
Mandeville Hall air conditioning and sound proofing	To investigate as time allows
GMH refurbishment	Invoice received for work in progress insurance. Currently 6 weeks behind schedule.
Spring Close Fallen/dead trees	2 further trees for Kevin Draine to check. Tree fallen during storm Eunice but not dangerous

A&E/220222/05 Consideration of Quotations to carry out work at properties Following the Electrical Installation Conditions Surveys

The Clerk reported that she had issued quotation requests to three contractors, but none had responded. She will send out further requests to Drakes Electrical and Connor Bedford.

A&E/220222/06 Consideration of Quotations to turf graves at the Cemetery

Derek Reader declared an interest in this item.

Two quotations had been received for the turfing of 25 graves at the cemetery. One for £30.00 plus VAT and one for £18.90 per grave. The Maintenance Officer could do the work, but it would be time consuming. The Group agreed a recommendation should be made to Full Council as follows:

***That 25 graves at the cemetery are turfed by C R Contracting at a cost of £18.90 per grave and that following this work carried out, that the Maintenance routinely turfs the graves as and when required.***

A&E/220222/07 Public Toilet external drainage pipes

A quotation had been received to replace existing external drainage piping for the Public Toilet to resolve this issue of the drains blocking. The Clerk was asked to obtain further quotations.

A&E/220222/08 Request for a gate on to the allotments

An allotment holder had written in requesting permission to construct a gate from this property off Newmarket Road on to the allotments. The Group agreed that permission should not be granted.

A&E/220222/09 Any other matters

There were no other matters to discuss.

A&E/220222/10 Date of the next meeting

The next meeting is on 26<sup>th</sup> April 2022.

The meeting closed at 9.20 pm

Signed

Dated.