

Burwell Parish Council

Asset and Environment Group

Meeting of 29th June 2021 7.30 pm at Mandeville Hall

Present: Joan Lonsdale (Chair), Lea Dodds, Robin Dyos, Jim Perry, Michael Swift, Liz Swift, Hazel Williams, Paul Webb, and Don Harrison.

A&E/290621/01 Apologies for absences and Declarations of Interests

There were no apologies for absence or declarations of interests.

A&E/290621/02 Approval of the minutes of the meeting held on 27th April 2021

The minutes of the meeting held on 27th April 2021 were approved. Proposed by Liz Swift, seconded by Jim Perry.

A&E/290621/03 Consideration of Action Sheet items and updates from minutes

Quotes are currently being sought for the car park refurbishment at the Recreation Ground.

No further updates are available for the proposed work to resolve the issues with the cracking ceiling at Mandeville Hall.

A&E/290621/04 Gardiner Memorial Hall Refurbishment update

The Gardiner Memorial Hall was discussed in full during the Council's previous meeting

A&E/290621/05 Trees:

Consideration of quotations – Jubilee Green

3 quotations received with prices between £225.00 plus VAT and £450.00 plus VAT

Consideration of quotations – Kingfisher Drive (Conservation Area will require permission from ECDC)

2 Quotations received £150.00 plus VAT and £70.00.

The Group considered quotations received from S R Landscapes, S P Landscapes and Eastern Tree Surgery. No quote was received from Eastern Tree Surgery as they did not feel that any work was necessary.

The Group agreed that the following recommendation should be made to Council:

That S R Landscapes should be asked to carry out the work to the tree in Kingfisher Close and the trees on Jubilee Green for the total sum of £400.00.

There is also a dead tree situated on the riverbank at Kingfisher Drive which could benefit from being removed.

Trees – Annual Checks and Inspection

It was suggested that the Parish Council should consider having a tree contractor on a 3-year basis in the same way that the grass cutter is appointed.

There is concern that landscape plans for new housing developments often include a number of trees, which in the long term, could be an issue for the parish council.

A company has written to the Council offering an annual professional inspection on Council owned trees. It was agreed that the Council should make an enquiry and ask what they offer and what they check. The Clerk also approach ECDC to see if its commercial department carries out annual tree inspections. The Clerk to also check if there are any courses that the Maintenance Officer could attend.

A&E/290621/06 PAT and Fixed Installation Testing

A quotation has been received from MS Electrical for the Annual Portable Appliance Testing at the Jubilee Reading Room, Cemetery Chapel, Recreation Ground and Mandeville Hall at a cost of £40.00 per site.

They had also included a cost to carry out the inspection and testing of fixed installation for the same properties to carry out. The Group felt that it was possibly not worth carrying out the fixed installation work at the Cemetery Chapel.

Proposed by Michael Swift and seconded by Hazel Williams the following recommendation is made to Council:

The Group recommends that the PAT Testing should be carried out at all four properties, with the Cemetery Chapel being checked to confirm the number of electrical items prior to giving the go ahead at a cost of £40.00 per site The Group also recommends that the inspection and testing of fixed installations should also be carried out at a cost of £150.00 per site.

A&E/290621/07 Wildflowers

Yvonne Rix shared notes on the two locations included in the wildflower pilot scheme (see attached). Pound Hill was also discussed, with the grass having been left uncut until the middle of June. It was noted that whilst many residents appreciated the grass being left uncut until the buttercups had died, many people were unhappy seeing the area left uncut after that. There is a need to balance biodiversity, aesthetics, and the amenity. In the case of Pound Hill, that it is sited in the centre and very much the focal point of the village. Clarity and a council policy must be in place before next spring. Safety of an area is paramount. The Clerk questioned if the unused areas of grass at the Cemetery could be used for wildflowers. Hazel Williams asked that should this be agreed, we need to be careful with the distribution of seeds by the wind on to the grassed cemetery areas. Discussions on the way forward with the wildflower scheme to be an agenda item at the Strategy Day.

A meeting with Deborah Ahmad, Cambridgeshire County Council has been arranged (meeting later deferred until after Strategy Day). Deborah Ahmad to be asked about which sprays the County Council uses for controlling weeds.

A&E/290621/08 Locking of Cemetery Gates

Concern has been raised about travellers driving into the Cemetery to visit family graves and causing a nuisance whilst they are there. The Clerk has asked the Police to talk to those concerned if they are present when they are passing. A suggestion has been made that one of the metal main driveway gates should be locked to prevent access. However, this would also prevent disabled visitors gaining access. The provision of a bollard was suggested and Clerk to investigate this possibility.

A&E/290621/09 Tennis Court Security

The cost for Cambridge Courts to install additional angled fencing to make it harder to gain access over the top of the fence is £8926 plus vat. The Clerk was asked to go back to Cambridge Courts for a price to provide the canopy previously suggested at a meeting with Paul Webb which is just added over the entrance gates. It was also suggested that Brian Marsh should be contacted to see if he could manufacture something to prevent individuals climbing over the fence. Incidents of individuals climbing the fence recorded on CCTV should be posted on Facebook. Anti- Climb paint cannot be used as it is likely to damage the surface of the courts.

Additional Items

Abbey Close Amenity Area

An email has been received from a resident regarding the responsibility and maintenance of the grassed amenity area in Abbey Close along with the trees situated within the area. There is no record that the Parish Council has ever taken over responsibility for the area and the group agreed that the Council is unlikely to take over

the responsibility for the area in the future. The Clerk to respond accordingly to the resident.

Maintenance Officer – Skip

It was agreed that a further skip should be hired for use by the Maintenance Officer.

Cherry Tree and Soakaways – Hatley Drive Amenity Area

One of the Cherry trees on the amenity area at Hatley Drive has died. Permission from EDCDC will be required to remove as it is in the conservation area. The Maintenance Officer should be able to remove this. There are also issues with soakaways in the area which are not functioning correctly. Joan Lonsdale to visit the site.

Weirs Silt

A resident living close to the Weirs has had a survey carried out and it has been found that the silt levels in the river are considerably higher than previously. Members of the group felt that the likely cause of the increase was all the building work currently going on further along the river for the battery storage unit. It was agreed that no action would be taken until work at this site had been completed, when contact would be made with the Planning Office if deemed necessary.

Defibrillator at the Recreation Ground.

The Swallows Football Club have written to the Council to ask if they would be allowed to install a Defibrillator purchased through the Football Association in the Pavilion. The group felt that if the Defibrillator is installed in the Pavilion, the availability would be very limited, so would prefer that unit to be installed outside. Clerk to make sure that the Swallows are aware of additional costs involved such as insurance, annual maintenance charges, and replacement components such as batteries and pads.

A&E/290621/10 Any other matters

Farmers Market

The Farmers Market intend to start using all three rooms at Mandeville Hall for the monthly Farmers Market. It was agreed that they should be charge £150.00 for the booking.

Letter to Assets and Environment Working Group

A letter had been received from a group of residents regarding some possible additions to the Council's Climate Emergency Action Plan. The Clerk to inform the residents that these additions will be considered at the Strategy Day.

A&E/290621/11 Date of the next meeting – 31st August 2021

The meeting ended at 9.25 pm

Signed

Dated