

Meeting of the Assets and Environment Group held on 29<sup>th</sup> November 2021 at Mandeville Hall.

Present: Joan Lonsdale (Chair), Robin Dyos, Liz Swift, Michael Swift, Geraldine Tate, Paul Webb, and Yvonne Rix (Clerk)

Apologies for Absence – Derek Reader and Lea Dodds

Purpose of Meeting

The meeting was arranged to discuss the management of grassed areas in the village including Council owned open spaces and County owned verges.

Introduction

All present had either attended the Climate Change Forum meeting held on 4<sup>th</sup> November 2021 or had seen the reports from Martin O’Leary (Wild Burwell) and Nicola Hallows (Wild Burwell) presented at the meeting.

The Group noted that Burwell, in comparison with many other villages, is fortunate to have two established areas, Pauline’s Swamp and Spring Close, which are managed to encourage flora and fauna. The village consists of dwellings, many with gardens.

The Group took into account the following considerations when making the proposed recommendations to Full Council (meeting of 11<sup>th</sup> January 2021). The Group is open to suggestions and will monitor and review throughout the following years.

Considerations

- Safety
- The 2022 Grass Season will be the second year of a three-year contract with Truelink
- The need to increase areas where wildflowers can establish in the village
- Local pride in the village
- The need to look at the wider picture and the views of all parishioners

Proposal

<b>Area</b>	<b>Proposal</b>	<b>Reason</b>
Individual gardens	Residents encouraged to create their own wildflower areas	As suggested by Wild Burwell to create a corridor of wildflower areas for bees and other insects.
County Council Verges including the Causeway	That the verges are managed in the same manner as 2021 with up to ten cuts per year.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Safety – Traffic and Pedestrian</li><li>• Dog Fouling</li><li>• Residents cutting and looking after the verges adjacent to their properties</li><li>• There have been no complaints from residents this year regarding the verges, indicating that the contractor has conducted the cutting satisfactorily, making changes to which verges are cut during</li></ul>

		the term of the contract is likely to cause confusion for all.
Spring Close	To cut as per 2021	
Pauline's Swamp	To cut as per 2021	Once the area of land adjacent to Pauline's Swamp has been transferred, it is likely (subject to Pauline's Swamp Trustees Plan for the area) that this will be managed to encourage the growth of wildflowers etc.
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	To create a further large area managed to encourage wildflowers.
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.
The Cemetery	To use the rear, currently unused, sections of the	Creation of further wildflower areas.

	<p>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.</p> <p>The remainder of the cemetery to be cut in the same way as 2021.</p>	
<p>Junction of the Causeway and Silver Street</p>	<p>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</p>	<p>Creation of further wildflower area but awareness of the need for road safety.</p>
<p>Junction of Hall Lane and Park Road</p>	<p>To be managed as a wildflower area as in 2021</p>	
<p>Pound Hill</p>	<p>Community Garden to be constructed as agreed by Full Council 13<sup>th</sup> July 2021. The remaining area to be cut as per the same cutting regime as the verges up to a maximum of ten cuts per season.</p> <p>That raised beds are included in the Community Garden which can be used for the growth of wildflowers</p>	<p>To enable the creation of the Community Garden providing additional seating for residents in this central area of the village.</p> <p>To create an area for wildflowers whilst taking into account the differing views of the community.</p>
<p>Bolton Close Areas all owned by ECDC</p>	<p>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.</p>	<p>Not only will this improve the outlook for Bolton Close residents but also of Ashgrove residents overlooking Bolton Close.</p>