

VILLAGE AMENITIES COMMITTEE
Minutes of the meeting of the Village Amenities Committee of Colwall Parish Council
held on Wednesday 1st October 2014 at 7.30pm in the Jean Simon Room, Colwall
Village Hall.

Present:

Councillors: Beard (Chairman), Carless, Milne, Rees, Co-opted members Freda Ballard, David Fisher and Derek Rees.

1. Welcome and Apologies.

The Chairman Councillor Beard welcomed those present.

Apologies were received from Councillors Mills and co-opted member Chris Englefield.

2. Declaration of Interests.

None were declared.

3. Minutes.

The minutes of Village Amenities Committee held on Wednesday 6th August 2014 were approved and signed by the Chairman.

4. Amenities Budget.

i) A summary of the 2014/15 Amenities Committee's year to date accounts was circulated for the committee members; Councillors Mills confirmed via the Clerk, expenditure is in line with Budget.

ii) The Clerk presented a summary of the options available for the repairs required at Orlin Road Play Area.

a) A quotation for the repairs to all 3 items of play equipment at Orlin Road from the original suppliers – TaylorMade - (now known as Outdoor Play People) is as set out below:-

The Cableway - £6,032 plus VAT.

The Tower Slide - £1865.00 plus VAT

The Torpoint Climbing Frame - £650.00 plus VAT

Total £8,547 plus VAT.

b) Should repairs be undertaken on The Tower Slide and Torpoint Climbing Frame (with the Cableway being permanently decommissioned) the cost is £3,902.00 plus VAT.

The 2 quotes above are valid until 31 December 2014, and the Clerk has subsequently obtained the confirmation that the repairs come with a 10 year manufacturers guarantee.

It was brought to the Committees attention that the manufacturers have improved the design, whereby the wooden pillars will have galvanised steel legs which are mounted direct into the ground thereby reducing the opportunity for rotting previously experienced by wooden legs being installations direct into the ground.

c) The quotation for a brand new slide alone from an alternative supplier with metal frame was circa £6,000 and for all items is estimated at £25-£30k.

IT WAS RESOLVED that the committee would recommend to Full Council at the meeting on the 22nd October 2014 that £8,547.00 re allocated from the play Equipment Reserve which currently stands at £17,089.00 and that the Clerk place the order with Outdoor Play People.

iii) The Draft Management Plan for the ongoing maintenance of the Charlie Ballard Nature Reserve prepared by William Watson MIEEM, Consultant Ecologists, was considered by the committee. IT WAS RESOLVED that the committee would recommend to Full Council at the

meeting on the 22nd October 2014 that £1,700 be allocated from the General Reserves for the maintenance works required in the Nature Reserve. This sum of money was allocated to the General Reserves during the last 2 years when works had been budgeted for, but not spent. IT WAS RESOLVED that the Clerk proceeds to obtain quotations for the works as per the Parish Council procurement policy, and that subject to Full Council approving the spend at the meeting on the 22nd October 2014, that the chosen contractor be appointed for the works to commence as quickly as possible thereafter, in accordance with the draft Management Plan stated above.

A verbal quotation received from S Maund, was submitted via the Clerk, for the replacement hardwood timbers required to repair the bridges in the Nature Reserve at £520 plus VAT plus the cost for a new 5 bar gate in softwood for the entrance to the Nature Reserve at £150 plus VAT

IT WAS RESOLVED that £700 of the annual Nature Reserve budget be spent on these items plus any sundries required directly relating thereto.

iv) The 2014/15 Budget – this was presented for consideration. This is similar to the current year's budget allowing for small increases for the Grass Cutting and Railway Garden maintenance contracts.

The Grass Cutting was contracted at a rate of £3,800 for 2014 and is forecast at £3,950 for 2015, this will be subject to retendering in February 2015 as the contract expires at the end of 2014.

The Railway Gardens Maintenance is contracted at £1,800 for 2015 (£1,650: 2014).

IT WAS RESOLVED that the committee would recommend to Full Council that the budget as presented for 2015/16 will be £17,945.

5. Sites Overview.

Orlin Road Play Area (CE) – Repairs to various items of the play equipment are required (see items 4 ii above). Otherwise reported to be in good condition.

War Memorial Gardens (GR) – Councillor Rees reported that silk poppies have been planted in the 4 troughs which have been placed around the War Memorial for the autumn and forthcoming Remembrance Service. It was also previously agreed that the wooden crosses placed for the Remembrance Service should be encouraged to be placed in the planters. In this regard, Cllr Rees will obtain a number of 6 wooden crosses from the Royal British Legion and plant them in the planters closer to the time.

Allens Meadow (Clerk) – Reported to be in good condition.

Walwyn Meadow and Library Building (JB/GR) – Reported to be in good condition.

Colwall Green (GR/DF) – Following a report regarding concerns as to the poor condition of the meadow area of Colwall Green by Councillor Beard, the Clerk has spoken with the Conservators and the committee will receive written proposals from the Conservators. The Clerk confirmed that the Conservators had advised that the “meadow area” is scheduled for its bi-annual cut in early October 2014.

In addition, the Conservators will put a proposal in writing to the Committee regarding the potential replacement of, rather than repairs to, the wooden railings on Colwall Over-bridge.

Brookmill Play Area (JB) - Reported to be in good condition.

Aunt Alice – (GR/JB) Reported to be in good condition following her annual service.

Railway Gardens (MM) – Reported to be in good condition.

Nature Reserve - (GR) Excess vegetation growth has been cleared from the paths. Action required for the management thereof covered under the Draft Management Report received (see 4.iii above)

6. Parish Notice Boards, Village Seats and Litter Bins.

All Parish notice boards were reported to be in good order.

Village Seats and Litter Bins –all bins are in good condition and all seats were reported to be in good condition.

7. Footpaths

Derek Rees, the footpath officer reported the following:-

Liaison with Herefordshire Council

The Footpath officer reported that he had not had the opportunity to meet with the recently appointed Locality Stewards when he attended the Parish to discuss Highways matters with the Clerk.

The Clerk advised that the Locality Steward Neil James had confirmed any materials required for the ongoing maintenance of the footpaths to be ordered via the Clerk.

Current Status of Footpaths

Nothing to report.

2 new volunteers have contacted the footpath officer to assist in covering the network of footpaths in the parish and report any remedial action required.

8. Correspondence

i) Email from local resident to Orlin Road Play Area requesting that the Cableway be repaired.

ii) Footpath Report from J Thomas – Nothing requiring remedial action was reported.

9. Date of next meeting.

The next meeting of the Village Amenities Committee will be held on Wednesday 3rd December 2014, at 7:30pm, in the Jean Simon Room at Colwall Village Hall.

The meeting closed at 8.15 p.m.

Chairman.....

Date.....