

VILLAGE AMENITIES COMMITTEE

**Minutes of the meeting of the Village Amenities Committee of Colwall Parish Council
held on Wednesday 2nd December 2015 at 7.30pm in the Jean Simon Room, Colwall
Village Hall.**

Present:

Councillors: Beard (Chairman), Kendrick, Mills, Rees and Stock.

Co-opted members: Chris Englefield, David Fisher and the Clerk.

It was noted, that Councillor Stock is not a committee member, therefore did not vote on the matters discussed at this meeting.

1. Welcome and Apologies.

The Chairman Councillor Beard welcomed those present.

Apologies were received and accepted from Councillor Butler and Carless.

2. Declaration of Interests.

None were declared.

3. Minutes.

The minutes of Village Amenities Committee held on Wednesday 7th October 2015 were approved and signed by the Chairman.

4. Amenities Budget.

i) A summary of the 2015/16 Amenities Committee's year to date accounts was circulated. Councillors Mills confirmed expenditure is in line with Budget with the exception of the Nature Reserve the costs of which were approved in the 2014/15 financial year but not invoiced until the 2015/16 financial year therefore a timing difference only and the Orlin Road play area repairs, for which the spend had been approved from the Play Equipment Reserves.

Subsequent to the production of the year to date accounts, the Clerk had received notification from Herefordshire Council that the sum of £6,748.54, was being remitted to Colwall Parrish Council for the provision of 'Open Space Facilities' to offset the impact of the development of Old Bottling Plant, Walwyn Road Colwall under the Section 106 Agreement entered into on the 15th May 2014,.

The Clerk explained that she had entered into negotiations with Herefordshire Council to secure these monies, to part reimburse the Parish Council Play Equipment Reserves, for the monies spent in fully refurbishing the Orlin Road Play Area. Finally, after 5 months, negotiations had paid off and the funds had been secured. **IT WAS RESOLVED** that upon receipt of the funds (due on the 4th December 2015), they be applied to reimburse the Play Equipment Reserves.

ii) To consider the offer of a donation of £1,000 from Colwall PCC for a new Interpretation Board in the Nature Reserve.

IT WAS RESOLVED that the offer be accepted by the Clerk, and that the Clerk:-

- i) thank Colwall PCC for the kind offer and
- ii) arrange for an interpretation board to be installed in the existing Notice Board at the Charlie Ballard Nature Reserve. The Clerk will invite Councilor Rees to assist in the design.

5. Sites Overview.

Orlin Road Play Area (CE) – Reported to be in good condition and that the new parameter fencing looks well. The seasonal mole hills have appeared again, no action required at this time.

War Memorial Gardens (GR) – Councillor Rees reported it to be in a good condition. Compliments were passed regarding the excellent condition of the garden for the Remembrance Day Service. Councillor Rees advised that one flower bed will be turfed over in the Spring, due to the poor condition of the soil and the lack of sunshine onto the flower bed.

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

Walwyn Meadow and Library Building (JB/GR) – Reported to be in good condition. The Christmas tree and decorations are up and will be illuminated until the twelfth night.

Colwall Green (GR/DF) – Car parking continues to be an issue in this area. It was flagged that should the Primary School be relocated a plan to reinstate the Green area should be considered in conjunction with the Malvern Hills Conservators.

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

Aunt Alice (GR/JB) - Reported to be slightly erratic with the time keeping currently running approximately 2 minutes fast.

Railway Gardens (GR) – Reported to be in good condition. Councillor Rees reported that the coping stones on the wall have failed, leaving the wall open to frost damage. It was agreed that the Clerk is to contact the railway operator London Midland and request that repairs are undertaken.

Nature Reserve - (GR) Reported to be in good condition, (see item 4 (i) 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

i) Footpath Officer- following the volunteering of Councillor Butler for this role IT WAS RESOLVED that Councillor Butler be appointed as Colwall Parish Council's Footpath Officer.

ii) Footpath Matters- There was one report of a broken way marked on CW26 near Barton Court, which the Clerk will arrange to be repaired under the P3 scheme.

8. To consider the opportunity for wild flower verges in the Parish

Councillor Rees reported that following the meeting in October David Armitage of the Malvern Hills AONB had reviewed the research undertaken regarding this matter and that he had reported the following:-

1. The initial sweep of all possible verges, done by Rob Widdicombe (County Ecologist) on 31st May 2011, suggested 2 other sites on Mill Lane as worthy of a special mowing regime. On meeting with Amey, they were declared them to be too dangerous to work on, so were dropped from our project.

- 2. This left the A449 at Chances Pitch as the only suitable location along the Highways in the Parish of Colwall.
- 3. On planting fresh seed – Worcestershire are doing this with the Kemerton Trust over at Bredon. And from this experience :
 - a. Highways won't allow seeding within 1m of the tarmac, so you need a broad verge.
 - b. You may need a plant licence.
 - c. Seed and advice available from <http://wildseed.co.uk/home>
 - d. Unless accompanied by the correct mowing regime, the new plants will become overwhelmed in a few years.

Steven Maund, the Parish grass cutting contractor, had been contacted about the possibility of managing the grass cutting verge along the A449 should “wildflower verges be adopted”. Steven declined to undertake this, as his insurance would not cover him for the grass cutting as the site(s) along the A449 were consider too dangerous.

Councillor Rees had also researched if Colwall Green could be a suitable site for wild flowers, however, the Conservators conservation officer had reviewed and reported that Colwall Green is not a “hay meadow” therefore they would not support planting of random “wild Seeds”. However, they would support the reintroduction of plugs of plants and flowers which had previously and are currently located on the site. This would produce additional flowers during the flowering season. Together with some scarifying, this could result in the site it may become more attractive. IT WAS AGREED for Councillor Rees to pursue this with the Conservators.

Finally, Councillor Rees suggested that planters could be installed at the 2 entrances to the village together with some bulbs which would flower during the growing season. IT WAS AGREED that Councillor Rees would research the costs involved and report back at the next committee meeting in February 2016.

9. Correspondence

None, other than 4(i) above.

9. Date of next meeting.

The next meeting of the Village Amenities Committee will be held on Wednesday 3rd February 2016, at 7:30pm, in the Jean Simon Room at Colwall Village Hall.

IT WAS AGREED and noted that the April 2016 meeting will be rescheduled to Wednesday the 13th April 2016.

The meeting closed at 8.10 p.m.

Chairman.....

Date.....