

VILLAGE AMENITIES COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting of the Village Amenities Committee of Colwall Parish Council held on Wednesday 4th February 2015 at 7.30pm in the Jean Simon Room, Colwall Village Hall.

Present:

Councillors: Beard (Chairman), Ashton, Carless, Mills, Milne, Rees, Trafford-Roberts, Co-opted members Freda Ballard, Chris Englefield, David Fisher and Derek Rees.
The Clerk, and non committee member J Stock (who did not vote on the matters discussed).

1. Welcome and Apologies.

The Chairman Councillor Beard welcomed those present.
No Apologies were received,

2. Declaration of Interests.

None were declared.

3. Minutes.

The minutes of Village Amenities Committee held on Wednesday 3rd December 2014 were approved and signed by the Chairman.

4. Amenities Budget.

- i) A summary of the 2014/15 Amenities Committee's was presented by Councillor Mills who confirmed that expenditure to date was in line with budget or that approved by the committee.
- ii) IT WAS RESOLVED that the quotation from the Conservators approved and recommended contractor Richard Horn for £3,620.00, was approved by the committee, subject to ratification by Full Council. This sum requires part funding to the sum of £1,200 from the general reserves over and above that already approved in October 2014.
- iii) 2 tenders for grass cutting were considered IT WAS RESOLVED that the tender from S Maund be accepted and the Clerk advise the applicants accordingly.

5. Sites Overview.

Orlin Road Play Area (CE) – The Clerk confirmed that the order for the repairs to the play equipment has been placed and is awaiting a date for the works to commence when the ground is less water logged than at present.

War Memorial Gardens (GR) – Councillor Rees reported that silk poppies which were planted in the 4 troughs for the Memorial Service in November would be removed and seeds would be planted in the troughs.

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) –.As agreed at the last meeting the Clerk had contacted the Conservators regarding the parking of an orange X1 from the school on the common on a daily basis, this action is contravening the bye law which prevents parking on Colwall Green. No response to date has been received from the Conservators.

Councillor Rees reported that the warden had visited the site but could not find out who the vehicle belonged to and no action had been taken.

Councillor Mills offered to take the matter up with the Board of Governors. The Clerk will forward the information to Councillor Mills.

The Conservators had confirmed via Councillor Rees that the repair of the wooden fencing would be completed within 21 days (from the 28th January 2015).

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

Aunt Alice – (GR/JB) Reported to be in good condition.

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

Nature Reserve - (GR) The Clerk confirmed that the tree works were completed in December and the de-silting of the pond would commence over the forthcoming weeks once the contractor had been notified that the quotation was accepted (see 4(ii) 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 Locality Steward has managed to attend to matters in the Parish on at least two occasions – one of these being directly concerned with a footpath - although his attendance at work has been exacerbated by family problems. I was unaware of these visits. This lack of contact before and after visits to the Parish is similar to the approach taken by his predecessor, the Area Warden, who attended the Parish on a number of occasions but I only became aware of these visits from other sources.

Current Status of Footpaths

CW3A; CW17; CW20; CW26; CW31; CW32; CW32a; CW34; CW36a; CW45; CW47; CW48 - these paths have all been walked and no problems reported.

There have been two reports during this period and are summarised below:-

CW27 The section of the path which runs beside the railway line (about 15 metres) is heavily bramble covered. People now walk along the field edge having pushed down the wire fence to allow access to/from the railway crossing

CW36 Report of locked gate. The ‘Bristol’ [gate-within-a-gate] seems to confuse walkers, it is difficult to find a reasonable place to put an explanation sign.

CW46 The stile by the main gate to Oldcastle Farm is broken, otherwise this path is OK.

CW50a The access to this path is now a gap in the hedge. The former stile is broken and has been laid down at the side of the hedge.

CW52 The course of the path through the potato packing sheds is not signed and is an unauthorised diversion. Nothing has been done by HC despite emailing a number of times.

CW53 Although way marked at the A417 end, it could do with another sign where the path diverges from the private road to Haysebrook Cottages - the route is fairly obvious, however. At the Petty France end of the path, an additional sign just before the house would keep people on the correct path. The footpath sign here is rather obscured by vegetation.

Resignation

I have yet to have the promised course for PFOs or the promised way-markers (those handed over from the previous PFO cannot be used since they are out of date). It has become obvious to me that this continuing lack of engagement means that the role of Public Footpath Officer (PFO) is essentially a 'box ticking' exercise for Hereford Council.

Having been a member of a number of corporate managed, volunteer run activities, I know how important it is to make volunteers feel involved and make sure their work is appreciated - if they are not made aware then they will 'fall by the wayside' – or in my case the footpath.

I am no longer willing to be the Parish Footpath Officer – I will however continue to walk the footpaths on an 'as and when' basis and where thought necessary submit a report to the Clerk.”

D Rees agreed after discussion, that he would continue as the appointed footpath officer until the end of the current fiscal year (April 2015) when he will be replaced.

8.Grass Cutting of Colwall Green

The meeting was adjourned to allow representation from the member of the public present, Councillor Stock, an email of support to be read out, and representation from the Conservators.

The meeting was reconvened,

IT WAS RESOLVED that the current grass cutting regime would continue for a period of 2 years (reduced from the current 4 yearly review) to allow this to be “managed” as a wildlife meadow. Maintenance problems on Colwall Green are to be addressed by the Conservators during this period and the Parish Council wish to see the area actively managed rather than by the current regime of neglect.

The management thereof is the responsibility of the Conservators and theirs to demonstrate that they are doing so accordingly.

9. Correspondence

None

10. Date of next meeting.

The next meeting of the Village Amenities Committee will be held on Wednesday 1st April 2015, at 7:30pm, in the Jean Simon Room at Colwall Village Hall.

The meeting closed at 8.59 p.m.

Chairman.....

Date.....