

COOKHAM PARISH COUNCIL
Minutes of a Meeting of the GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE
Held in the Community Room on Tuesday 16th April 2024, commencing at 7.30pm

PRESENT: Cllr H. Pleming (Chairman)
 Cllrs C. Aisladie, L Austin, T. Caen, J. Edwards, M-L Kellaway, A-L Regan and L. Tull

Also Present: There were 3 members of public present.
 There were no members of the press present.

OPEN FORUM:

Cllr L. Tull spoke in Open Forum regarding the recent social media messages by Steve Backshall about the state of the river Thames in the local area.

An item will be added to the next Full Council agenda for council to discuss and consider next steps.

Two members of WildCookham and the Alleyns Lane allotment field Licensee were present to answer questions regarding item 3.

1. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:**

Apologies received from Cllrs M. Brar, E. Bune and M. Howard.

2. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:**

None.

3. **TO RECEIVE TWO PROPOSALS REGARDING THE ALLEYN'S LANE ALLOTMENT FIELD AND START TO CONSIDER THE FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS AND FUTURE BUDGETING. TO INCLUDE:**

The field has a Grazing Licence attached to it to allow it to be used for grazing horses. It has been let to a tenant for approximately 40 years.

i. **A PROPOSAL FROM CLLR HOWARD REGARDING WATER SUPPLY, SHELTER, REPLACEMENT FENCING AND ADDITIONAL HEDGING:**

The Clerk was asked to get costs for: a water trough and supply to the field, replacement or renewal of the fencing around the perimeter of the field, and initial information about a pony shelter and cost.

ii. **A PROPOSAL FROM WILDCOOKHAM ABOUT THEIR PLANS FOR THE ALLEYN'S LANE ALLOTMENT FIELD:**

A representative from WildCookham spoke about their proposals to increase biodiversity at the site. Although they have several ideas their first step is to survey the area to get a better understanding.

Cllrs agreed that WildCookham could carry out a survey on the allotment field. Dates will be coordinated with the Council, the Licensee and WildCookham prior to starting. It is anticipated that the survey will be carried out over a few months. Once the results of the survey are complete the matter will be brought back to the General Purposes Cmte for further decisions.

4. **TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON THE ALLOTMENT ASSOCIATION MEETING ON 26TH MARCH, CONSIDER CONCERNS RAISED AND ACTION POINTS REQUESTED AND CONSIDER A PROPOSAL TO INVESTIGATE THE SECURITY AT EACH ALLOTMENT SITE. MATTERS TO INCLUDE A PLAN FOR THE FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS OF ANY WORKS:**

The Allotment Association had been well attended and Tenants were generally happy with the meeting. A number of concerns had been raised about the Orchard and the security issues around having non tenants on site on Orchard open days.

Cllrs Edwards and Pleming will investigate security options at all three allotment sites, this action was approved by the committee. Their findings will be reviewed at a later meeting.

5. TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON THE PLAN FOR THE SUTTON ROAD ALLOTMENT ORCHARD PROJECT, INCLUDING PLANTING AND MANAGEMENT CARE OF THE TREES AND AN UPDATE REGARDING THE MOWING FIELD AT THE BACK OF SUTTON RD ALLOTMENTS:

Cllr Jacqui Edwards reported on the types of trees that will be ordered and is waiting for 3 different quotes before a vote for approval. The mowing field has been mowed with a path. Cllr Edwards and Cllr Pleming will continue to work on planting plan/schedule.

6. TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON THE WOODLAND TRUST TREE PLANTING PROJECT ON THE ALFRED MAJOR RECREATION GROUND:

Only one tree has been destroyed and the wild flowers should be in bloom by the next GP meeting.

7. TO CONSIDER THE INSPECTION REPORT FOR THE WAR MEMORIALS AT COOKHAM DEAN, COOKHAM VILLAGE AND THE TARRYSTONE SEAT AND REVIEW COST, PENDING FURTHER QUOTES REQUIRES PRIOR TO APPROVAL:

8. TO DECIDE WHETHER ADDITIONAL PATHS ARE REQUIRED IN THE EXTENSION SECTION OF THE CEMETERY PRIOR TO STARTING BURIALS IN THE NEXT SECTION AND APPROVE AN ACTION TO SEEK QUOTES:

Three choices were given and the one that required the medium amount of change was voted through. This was number 2

9. TO ACKNOWLEDGE THE BISHOPS STORTFORD CEMETERY ACT 2024 REGARDING REUSE OF BURIAL SPACE:

This information was acknowledged.

10. TO REVIEW THE LATEST HAGS OPERATIONAL INSPECTION REPORT (SPRING 2024):

The report was reviewed, as there were no medium or higher risks noted it is to be accepted. In response to Cllr requests

- i. To make the entrances to the play area less muddy. Clerk to get costs for adding gravel/scalping's. DONE
- ii. A bin appears to need replacing, Clerk to investigate and replace if necessary. PENDING
- iii. Clear the mats under certain play equipment that has become silted up. Clerk to ask for options and quotes for replacement matting. PENDING

11. TO CONSIDER A PROJECT TO INVESTIGATE THE IMPLICATIONS OF COMMISSIONING AN ECOLOGICAL REPORT FOR COOKHAM PARISH COUNCIL, TO INCLUDE THE EXTENT OF THE REPORT, POTENTIAL COSTS TO THE COUNCIL AND A FUTURE BUDGET:

Refused

12. CHAIRMAN'S SUBMISSIONS:

None.

The Meeting closed at 9.15pm