

**ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE**  
**Wellow Village Hall – 10 January 2002**  
**(7.00 p.m. – 8.20 p.m.)**

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PRESENT: Parish Council: Mrs Simpson (Chairman); Mr Harris and Mrs Kittow

Co-opted Members: Mrs Kenny and Mr Parsons

Mr and Mrs Sleigh (Tree Wardens) also attended

1. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 4 October 2001 were agreed as a correct record.

2. CO-OPTED MEMBER VACANCY

Further to discussion at the previous meeting, it was agreed to approach Tony Cooper or Ashley Browning concerning the vacant co-opted member position.

M Derrick/  
A Gentle

**BURIAL GROUND**

3. MAINTENANCE ITEMS

It was noted that Eric Turner had now returned to work. To improve maintenance standards generally on Council-owned sites, the intention was to agree a routine maintenance schedule for Mr Turner, particularly for the summer months.

M Derrick

The recent tree cutting had regrettably included some intended for preservation. Mrs Kenny agreed to label the relevant trees in the hope they would re-generate.

J Kenny

**COMMON**

4. MAINTENANCE ITEMS

Comment was made on the excellent standard of gorse-cutting work carried out by the contractor, Clive Maton. Members agreed that additional gorse-cutting was needed at Canada Common which the Parish Council could probably undertake itself. The fence surrounding the oak tree at Monkeys Jump had now been removed but, in its present condition, the tree was unlikely to survive.

A Gentle

5. A36 HEDGE

Further to discussion at the previous meeting, the Council had decided to proceed with the cutting of the hedge on the A36 frontage rather than defer for layering. A minimum height of 5' was intended in order to

provide a screen for the brick wall on the opposite side of the A36 when viewed from higher ground on the Common. Members agreed that the hedge was likely to require hand-cutting in part and that arrangements should be made for clearance of the debris after the work.

M Derrick

## 6. NOTICE BOARD

Mr Sleigh had provided an initial draft of the inscription for the new information cairn. This would probably need some refinement, depending on the overall design of the plaque. Mr Sleigh agreed to carry out the project planner role for this scheme and to liaise with Colin Brown on the design aspects and with Andrew Pullen on construction details.

M Sleigh

## ENVIRONMENT

## 7. PROJECTS

(a) Foxes Lane pond: Mr Harris reported that weeding had now been completed, apart from floating weed. Hedge and tree clearance had been carried out and the intention was to undertake various forms of planting and to install log and plank seats. Members agreed not to pursue the earlier suggestion of a 'board dipping' facility for local schoolchildren.

(b) Bus Shelters: The Council had agreed to defer the Whinwhistle corner shelter for the time being pending details of the proposed road works for the A36. Land ownership enquiries were still proceeding in connection with the proposed site opposite the Post Office. Neighbour consultation was currently under way in respect of the proposed Lower Common Road shelter.

## 8. MAINTENANANCE REPORTS/WORK PLANNING

(a) Buxton land: Spoil from the recent hedge cutting still remained on site and would require removal. Mr Harris agreed to assist by removing the material with a tractor and trailer and burning off site. Replacement hedge planting was also required by the spring, the cost of which would be met as part of the insurance claim. To progress the insurance payment it was agreed to purchase a quantity of hawthorn as soon as possible.

J Harris

W Simpson

Thanks were also extended to Mr and Mrs Sleigh for work undertaken on the site. For the future, regular strimming and hedge cutting were needed to achieve adequate maintenance. The yellow pipe in the ditch had also yet to be removed.

Mrs Simpson also agreed to approach Brian Pointer concerning provision of a gate for access off Canada Road. A plank crossing for the ditch was also needed.

W Simpson

- (b) Licence Sites: Jean Kenny was thanked for the standard of maintenance achieved on the Council's licence sites. Residents of the Hollies had expressed particular gratitude.

It was noted that the Area Surveyor had still to issue the licence for the Carlos site. Work, to be carried out in the spring, included planting, erection of seats, tree pruning (requiring highway authority approval) and re-siting of the wheeled bin. The Area Surveyor was also proposing to modify the existing layby and to erect a bollard at the Romsey Road end of the site to prevent vehicular access. It was agreed to appoint a project planner for this site at a later date.

- (c) Footpaths: A complaint had been received about the height of trees bordering footpath 17. Ownership of the trees was unknown. However, residents were entitled to trim back branches overhanging their land while the Parish Council would undertake trimming on the path side. A working party was agreed for Saturday 26 January at 10 a.m. at Warwick Place, comprising at least Wendy Simpson, John Harris, Jean Kenny and Reverend George Biggs. It was hoped that the County Council would complete the gravelling of the path in the spring.

W Simpson

Jean Kenny would also be introducing herself to footpath volunteers during the next few weeks.

J Kenny

- (d) Future Works: The coming year was intended to be one of consolidation aimed at tidying up various parts of the Parish. These included land at the junction of the A36 and Lower Common Road and the entrance to Fielders Way off Whinwhistle Road. The latter site had been submitted as a project under Test Valley's environmental improvement scheme. The Chairman also intended to prepare a list of other sites requiring general tidying. In addition, the Council could possibly take over some of the local grass cutting.

W Simpson

- (e) Highway Seats: As reported previously, a local resident had placed a private memorial plaque on the seat near the war memorial in Romsey Road. Floral memorials had now also been wired to the seat leaving sticky deposits and the Chairman therefore agreed to approach the individual concerned. The Clerk would also enquire of Test Valley about ownership and, if possible, arrange for the seat to be re-varnished.

W Simpson  
M Derrick

Regular strimming was also needed around the seat at the A36/Slab Lane junction.

## 9. TREE MATTERS

The Tree Wardens had attended a further training course and would be attending an additional one in March. Tree Wardens in the Test Valley area had also met together at a recent annual event.

Mr and Mrs Sleigh would be looking generally at the Parish and reporting to the Committee on any issues of note, including the need for additional TPOS etc. They were also asked to observe the situation at Two Ways in Lower Common Road.

M Sleigh/  
P Sleigh

10. NEXT MEETING

The date of the next meeting was noted as Thursday 25 April 2002.