

ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE
Wellow Village Hall – 17 October 2002
(7.00 p.m. – 9.15 p.m.)

PRESENT: Parish Council: Mrs Kittow, Mr Overton-Hore and Mrs Simpson

Co-opted Members: Mr Browning, Mrs Kenny and Mr Matthews

Mr Sleigh (Tree Warden) also attended

Apologies for absence were received from Mr Gentle, Mr Harris, Mrs Perry,
Reverend Biggs and Mr Parsons

1. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 25 July 2002 were agreed as a correct record, subject to the substitution of Mrs Sleigh for Mr Sleigh in the attendance list.

2. BUDGET MONITORING

Members received budget monitoring figures for the Committee for the period to 24 September 2002.

3. PROJECT MANAGEMENT PLANS

The Chairman tabled project schedules for Environment Committee schemes. The aim was to identify project leaders and helpers for each scheme to aid project management. It was agreed also to distribute to the Committee details of members' telephone numbers to assist future contact.

M Derrick

4. GRASS CUTTING

The Council had agreed the principle of assuming responsibility for grass cutting in the village from 2002/03. A request had been made for a meeting with the Area Surveyor but, in the meantime, it was necessary to identify the intended sites. Members suggested the following for initial transfer of responsibility:

All existing licensed sites
Ryedown Lane/Whinwhistle Road junction
Verges around the Canada roundabout
Verge on the A36 to the west of School Road
Corner of Sand Close and land opposite
Junction of Romsey Road/Buttons Lane
Junction of Slab Lane/A36
?Land around Foxes Lane pond

Members were asked to submit other suggestions either to the Chairman or the Clerk.

All Members

A new ride-on mower, together with a new trailer, would be needed for many of these new sites. A ride-on mower that could be driven on the highway would avoid a new trailer purchase but the existing trailer could usefully be replaced in any event.

RECOMMENDED –

M Derrick

That, subject to discussions with the Area Surveyor on procedures and funding arrangements:

(a) the Council assume responsibility for grass cutting on the sites listed above from 1 April 2003; and

(b) authority be given for the purchase of a new ride-on mower and trailer.

5. BUXTON LAND

The Council had approved a proposed schedule of work following the site meeting on 5 September. Arising from the schedule, the following items were discussed and action agreed:

Project Management: Ashley Browning to lead, assisted by Michael Sleigh and Jean Kenny.

A Browning/
M Sleigh/
J Kenny

Ditch crossing: Area Surveyor approval awaited. Consider negotiating use of nearby dropped crossing if necessary

Hedge cutting: Quotation of £90 - £100 submitted by Ashley Browning (to be confirmed in writing) accepted (authorised by the Chairman as urgent work). Chairman to order new hedging plants to replace those recently damaged.

A Browning
W Simpson

Hedge cuttings: Ashley Browning suggested these be left to provide a natural habitat. However, Ashley would carry out a further inspection.

A Browning
W Simpson

Ted Malin tree: Chairman to order replacement English oak.

Stream: Ashley Browning to provide estimate for repair of bridge.

A Browning

Environment Agency planned to carry out a further dip test on the stream soon.

Canada Cross: New cross needed following damage. Chairman to enquire about suitable 'contractor'.

W Simpson

RECOMMENDED that the action agreed above be confirmed.

6. LICENSED SITES

Thanks were extended to Jean Kenny for her work on these sites. Further action was agreed as follows:

J Kenny

The Hollies: Hedge trimming being carried out

Slab Lane: Plant bluebells

Barnes Corner: Introduce spindle and holly

Romsey Road: Jean Kenny and Michael Sleight to dig new planting beds.
Ashley Browning to trim lower tree branches.
Consider provision of seats in the spring.

J Kenny/MS
A Browning

RECOMMENDED that the action agreed above be confirmed.

7. WELLOW WAYS

Thanks were extended to Reverend Biggs for use of the Church Hall for the Wellow Ways event. Thanks to volunteers would also be included in the Parish Newsletter.

V Perry

Of the 23 paths in the parish, 18 were in reasonable order. The remainder required attention, including works to stiles and signposts. Mrs Kenny agreed to prepare a detailed list with a view to the County Council carrying out, or at least part-funding, the work.

J Kenny

It was suggested that, for 2003, the Wellow Ways event be held in June so that volunteers could then carry out maintenance work during September.

J Kenny

RECOMMENDED that the above proposals for footpath maintenance be approved.

8. BUS SHELTERS

It was noted that quotations were awaited from Frenchmoor Garden Buildings for new shelters on the A36 at Whinwhistle corner and at sites opposite Hatches Garage and the Post Office. Works proposed by the Highways Agency near the Whinwhistle shelter in the context of proposed de-trunking may cause postponement of the new shelter. It was agreed that replacement of the Hatches Garage shelter was the highest priority.

M Derrick

9. WEST WELLOW COMMON

(a) Stone cairn and memorial seat: Design work on the cairn was progressing, albeit a separate contractor would be required for weather-proofing of the final material. A solution was needed as to siting – English Nature had proposed the edge of the car park (to minimise ground erosion) while the Council preferred a site on the grass. Detailed proposals for the memorial seat were still awaited.

W Simpson/
M Derrick

(b) Gravel track containment: Discussions had taken place with English Nature on available options for this project, including an earth mound and dragons teeth. Detailed proposals were awaited from Mr Gibson of Canada Lodge (the proposer of the works) but it was noted that he might now be moving from Canada Common. It was agreed that Mr Overton-Hore would investigate the project further (the Clerk to provide any necessary background information).

A Overton-Hore
/ M Derrick

(c) Gorse clearance: The Chairman of the Council would be meeting shortly with English Nature to discuss this year's work programme.

V Perry

- (d) Car parks: Replacement of the Plantation Road log barrier had now been completed. Consideration could be given to a similar barrier at Monkeys Jump and opposite Old Boundary Farm (as part of the track containment proposals). Council
- (e) Tree enclosure: Thanks were extended to Colin Matthews for work undertaken in the former enclosure, including removal of fencing and tree supports.

In the context of maintenance of the Common, it was recalled that the developer of the Holly Acres site had offered to make a donation towards “village funding”. The Chairman agreed to pursue the matter further. W Simpson

10. BURIAL GROUND

- (a) Fees for 2002/03: Members considered burial fees recommended by the Council’s Policy and Finance Committee, to operate from 1 April 2003. The Committee endorsed the recommendation. M Derrick
- (b) Maintenance arrangements: Members noted the significant number of maintenance items currently requiring attention. The intention was that the Council’s Groundsperson would undertake much of the work once the hours of the post had increased. In the meantime, the following action was agreed: M Derrick

- Tree near Rubert Barker memorial seat: Ashley Browning to provide quotation for crown-lifting. A Browning
- Hedge on north-west roadside boundary: Clerk to obtain quotation from either Clive Jones or Richard Long. M Derrick
- Jubilee seat: Chairman/Clerk to investigate suitable item. (Canada Common builder referred to in item 9 above could be asked to fund) W Simpson/
M Derrick
- Replacement trees: Plant hornbeam inside main entrance to replace dead tree and new evergreen in unused area of burial ground. Dead tree in cremation area to be replaced by nearby prunus. Chairman/
Mrs Kenny to order any new trees required. J Kenny
- Gap in wall: Ashley Browning to provide quotation for new fencing (construction to be preceded by suitable planting (?dogwood) W Simpson/
J Kenny
A Browning

RECOMMENDED that the actions agreed above be confirmed.

- (c) Maintenance by third party: The Committee received a report on a meeting with members of a recently-bereaved Wellow family. The latter had offered to maintain the footpaths, provide a new gravel surface for the section of path adjacent to the present burial area and paint the fencing surrounding the burning area. They had also requested two further reserved plots (in addition to two already granted) and permission to erect a memorial seat. Members acknowledged that the offer could assist the maintenance position but felt that it was not appropriate for third parties to carry out this work.

<p>RECOMMENDED –</p> <p>(1) That permission be granted for provision of a memorial seat;</p> <p>(2) That permission for two additional reserved plots be refused;</p> <p>(3) That the offer to undertake maintenance work at the burial ground be declined.</p>	<p>M Derrick</p>
<p>11. FOXES LANE POND</p> <p>John Harris and Ashley Browning had pulled further areas of weed and further spraying had been carried out (albeit Stonecrop remained in part).</p> <p>Debris left by travellers in Foxes Lane had been removed by Test Valley but there was now a problem of new travellers on nearby land. In this context further consideration might need to be given to dragons teeth or similar structure to deter future roadside occupation.</p>	<p>Council</p>
<p>12. TREE WARDENS</p> <p>Michael Sleigh had raised the matter of ageing trees in the village and the need to encourage villagers to undertake new planting. It was suggested that the Council could consider setting an example by planting a few new trees at Lower Common Road and Hatches Farm. These could be planted inside hedgerows (with guards to protect them during hedgecutting). Intermediate size English oaks were suggested and the Chairman agreed to obtain a quotation.</p> <p>It was also noted that Test Valley had recently declined a request for TPOs on trees at Maurys Mount because the trees “were not in view of the road”. Mr Sleigh agreed to research the rules and also to provide a list of other trees worthy of TPOs for submission to Test Valley. The Council could also identify landmark trees that could be made the subject of TPOs.</p>	<p>W Simpson</p> <p>A Browning</p>
<p>RECOMMENDED –</p> <p>(1) That the Sport and Leisure Committee consider the proposal for additional tree planting at Lower Common Road and Hatches Farm;</p> <p>(2) That the Council identify trees in the village worthy of TPOs.</p>	<p>M Derrick</p> <p>Council</p>
<p>13. AUTUMN DITCH INITIATIVE</p> <p>The Chairman proposed that a leaflet be circulated to residents during the autumn reminding them of the need to clear ditches. Jean Kenny and Sue Kittow offered to help with distribution.</p> <p>RECOMMENDED that a leaflet be circulated to residents as proposed.</p>	<p>J Kenny/ S Kittow</p> <p>W Simpson</p>

14. NEXT MEETING

The date of the next meeting was noted as Thursday 23 January 2003.