

ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE
Wellow Village Hall – 25 July 2002
(7.00 p.m. – 8.52 p.m.)

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

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

Mr Sleigh (Tree Warden) also attended

Apologies for absence were received from Mr Gentle, Mrs Kittow,
Mrs Perry and Mr Parsons

1. MINUTES

The minutes of the meetings held on 25 April and 15 May 2002 were
agreed as a correct record.

2. NEW CO-OPTED MEMBER

The Chairman welcomed Mr Ashley Browning as a new co-opted member
on the Committee. Mr Browning outlined his background and
qualifications in the context of this appointment.

3. GROUNDSPERSON

It was noted that, following the resignation of the Groundsperson, Ron
Biddlecombe, the Council had appointed Jeffrey Benham on a three-
month temporary contract with effect from 1 July 2002. Members
discussed the need for new maintenance equipment and asked Mr Harris
to prepare a list of items required.

J Harris

4. BUDGET MONITORING

The Clerk presented a budget monitoring sheet for this Committee for the
period 1 April to 8 July 2002. A similar financial report would be
presented to each meeting as part of new budget monitoring arrangements
for all Committees.

ENVIRONMENT

5. FOXES LANE POND

Work on the pond restoration was now largely complete. However,
further weeding would be necessary in due course.

6. GRASS CUTTING

Members discussed the poor condition of grass verges etc resulting from the limited number of cuts performed by the County Council. In this context, it was suggested that the Parish Council should consider taking over responsibility for grass cutting on prominent sites in the village. In respect of the land adjoining The Hollies, it was agreed that Mrs Kenny would continue grass cutting this year bearing in mind the irregular cutting by residents.

J Kenny

RECOMMENDED -

(1) That the Parish Council assume responsibility for grass cutting on selected sites in the village and, for this purpose, sites be identified for negotiation with the highway authority; and

Council

(2) That consideration be given to any additional equipment required.

Council

7. TREE WARDENS

Michael Sleigh referred to the withdrawal of funding by the Hampshire Wildlife Trust for the Tree Warden Scheme. Support had been offered by Test Valley Borough Council and further information was awaited.

Members also discussed ways of increasing the profile of tree matters in the parish. Suggestions included requesting the results of planning applications relating to TPO trees and also increasing the number of TPOs. In the latter case, the Tree Wardens would consider the scope for additional TPOs, with the help of any proposals from Ashley Browning and other members of the Committee. The Clerk would also enquire whether TPOs could be made in relation to Parish Council-owned trees.

RECOMMENDED –

(1) That Test Valley be asked to notify the outcome of planning applications affecting TPO trees; and

M Derrick

(2) That the Tree Wardens consider the prospects for additional TPOs.

P & M Sleigh

8. BUXTON LAND, CANADA CORNER

Arising from a discussion on the future of this site, it was suggested that the land could be retained as a wildlife garden and access made available to members of the public. Mr Browning would be able to carry out initial clearance of the site which could then be maintained on a regular basis by the Council's Groundsperson. It was proposed that members meet on site to discuss the issue further and to begin compilation of a photographic record. Consideration could also be given to provision of a highway seat outside the site, adjacent to the Canada Cross (which still required repair).

<p>Regardless of the future use of the land, access was still required from Canada Road for maintenance purposes. Mr Browning agreed to provide a quotation for construction of a stile.</p>	<p>A Browning</p>
<p>RESOLVED that members of the Committee meet on site on Thursday 5 September at 7 p.m. to discuss the future of this land.</p>	<p>Whole Committee</p>
<p>9. FOOTPATHS</p>	
<p>Members noted that Roger Veall of Plants Close had joined the volunteer footpath team. Jean Kenny had met all the other volunteers to discuss future maintenance work.</p>	
<p>The footpath from the Church to Woodington was now usable. Reverend Biggs had mostly cleared footpath 17 and would complete the work shortly. However, dumping was still a problem and the ditch required cleaning. Further major work was also needed to the trees on both sides of the path which could be carried out by a contractor in the autumn. Residents' views would be sought prior to the work.</p>	<p>G Biggs</p>
<p>The need for new footpath signs was discussed and Jean Kenny agreed to provide a list of needs. The Clerk would enquire about available funds from the County Council.</p>	<p>J Kenny M Derrick</p>
<p>A further Wellow Ways event was also proposed. Jean Kenny would arrange any necessary publicity.</p>	<p>J Kenny</p>
<p>RECOMMENDED that a Wellow Ways event be held on Sunday 8 September from 2 – 5 pm, meeting at the Church Hall.</p>	
<p>10. BUS SHELTERS</p>	
<p>Installation of the Lower Common Road shelter was now complete. Members proposed that the next priority should be replacement of the Whinwhistle shelter, funds for which were available in the current year's budget.</p>	
<p>The Highway Agency had now confirmed its ownership of the land opposite the Post Office, intended as a further bus shelter site.</p>	
<p>RECOMMENDED –</p>	
<p>(1) That a new shelter be provided at the Whinwhistle junction from the current year's budget and that, for this purpose:</p>	<p>M Derrick</p>
<p>(i) consideration be given to a suitable design; and (ii) a quotation be sought from Frenchmoor Garden Buildings;</p>	<p>Council M Derrick</p>
<p>(2) That a bid be made in the 2003/04 estimates for a new shelter opposite the Post Office.</p>	<p>M Derrick</p>

11. LICENSED HIGHWAY SITES

Additional planting was proposed for the Barnes Corner site to supplement that already carried out. It was also proposed that all existing bracken be pulled and replaced with another suitable fern. A comment had been received concerning the presence of weeds but members noted that it had not been the intention to clear the entire site. Jean Kenny agreed to prepare a list of species for further planting.

J Kenny

A planting plan had now been prepared for the Carlos site, with a bed located at each end of the trees. The Chairman would prepare a list of plants to be ordered. In the meantime, the highway authority would be approached for approval to the plan, consent to trim the lower tree branches and edging of the layby. Test Valley would also be asked to re-locate the wheeled bin. The proposed oil pipeline project was scheduled for 2003 and it was hoped that the land would not be used for storage of vehicles and equipment. However, it might be appropriate in any event to delay any new planting pending completion of the scheme.

W Simpson
M Derrick

M Derrick

Completion of The Hollies site was also reported.

12. FLOOD PROTECTION

The Chairmen referred to a proposed meeting in September with residents of The Drove to explain responsibilities for ditch maintenance and to discuss a work programme prior to the autumn. The Council could consider possibly funding the work.

W Simpson

COMMON

13. GORSE TREATMENT

Gorse spraying was proposed at Monkey Jump during the next month or so, with cutting at the year-end, mainly along the Canada frontage.

14. INFORMATION CAIRN

A meeting with Colin Brown to discuss the design and manufacture of the plaque for the proposed cairn had been arranged for 31 July. The person originally identified for construction of the cairn was no longer available and the Chairman therefore agreed to make enquiries as to an alternative contractor.

W Simpson/
M Derrick

W Simpson

15. MAINTENANCE ITEMS

A working party was needed to restore the log edging at the Plantation Road turning circle. The Chairman agreed to make enquiries about the availability of redundant telegraph poles at Maurys Mount. If available, Ashley Browning and John Harris would cut the poles and transport them to the Common.

W Simpson

A Browning/
J Harris

The Clerk also reported on the position concerning the possible track containment near Canada Lodge, Canada Common. The proposal also involved the construction of dragons teeth and the provision of a designated parking area near Old Boundary Farm. A meeting was planned with English Nature to discuss the project.

M Derrick/
V Perry

BURIAL GROUND

16. JUBILEE SEAT

It was agreed to obtain brochures with a view to installing a circular seat around the Plane tree to commemorate the Queen's Golden Jubilee.

W Simpson/
M Derrick

17. TREES

The following tree works had been proposed at an earlier meeting and would be implemented during the autumn:

- crown-lift tree adjacent to Rupert Barker seat (Ashley Browning to inspect)
- move cherry tree adjacent to burning area to more suitable location
- plant new evergreen in unused area of burial ground (consider effect on plot layout) and new hornbeam inside main entrance to replace dead tree

A Browning

W Simpson

The Clerk would meet on site with a representative of Romsey Organic Gardeners to discuss the planting of a tree in the Garden of Remembrance in memory of the late David Barter.

M Derrick

On advice from Ashley Browning, members agreed not to remove the ivy from the tree on the tree near the burning area.

18. MAINTENANCE ITEMS

The following maintenance works were identified for future action:

- weed treatment of footpaths
- painting of storage shed
- adjustment of catch on main entrance gate
- closing of gap at end of church wall

M Derrick

GENERAL

19. NOTICE BOARDS

Members discussed the location of Parish notice boards and noted the absence of a board at the western end of the village.

RECOMMENDED that an additional Parish notice board be installed and that a suitable site be identified for this purpose.

Council

20. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting was noted as Thursday 17 October 2002