

**PARISH ENVIRONMENTAL
ASSETS & PATHS COMMITTEE**

Met at Jersey Farm Community Centre
on Tuesday 6th July 2021 at 7.30 pm.

Present:

Councillor Jenny Roberts (Chair)
Councillor Janet Churchard
Councillor June Reid
Councillor Patsy Cann
District Councillor Frances Leonard
Public Members - Tony Farnfield, David Kealey, Mary
Ternouth (Marshalswick Horticultural Society), Bernard
Lusby
Mr. Julian Thornton (Hertfordshire County Council)

Apologies:

Councillor John Newton-Davies
Mark Carter (Warden)

Officers:

Rebecca Pannese, Project and Amenities Officer
Emma Hostler, Deputy Clerk

823 ELECTION OF CHAIR

It was proposed and seconded that Councillor Jenny Roberts should be elected as Chair. It was unanimously:

RESOLVED

That Councillor Jenny Roberts be elected as Chair of The Parish Environmental Assets & Paths Committee (PEAP).

824 ELECTION OF VICE CHAIR

It was proposed and seconded that Councillor Frances Leonard be elected as Vice Chair. It was unanimously:

RESOLVED

That Councillor Frances Leonard be elected as Vice Chair of the PEAP Committee.

825 REAFFIRMATION OF PUBLIC MEMBERS

Those Public Members present including Tony Farnfield, David Kealey, Mary Ternouth, and Bernard Lusby (*who joined the meeting later – see below*) re-affirmed their willingness to continue as Public Members of the PEAP Committee.

826 DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATIONS

There were no disclosures of interest or dispensations given.

(Julian Thornton, Councillor Patsy Cann and Bernard Lusby jointed the meeting at this point)

827 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 27th April 2021, having been previously circulated, were taken as a correct record and it was unanimously:

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 27th April 2021 be approved and signed by the Chair as a correct record.

828 REVIEW OF THE PEAP COMMITTEE TERMS OF REFERENCE

As an annual statutory requirement, the Committee Terms of Reference, having been previously circulated, were reviewed. Members noted that the membership of Parish Councillors had been increased from 4 to 6, at the Full Council meeting in May. It was unanimously:

RESOLVED

That the Committee Terms of Reference be approved for the year 2021-22, to include an increase of Parish Councillor membership from 4 to 6.

829 MATTERS OF REPORT

- Following the intervention from Herts County Council (HCC), the construction of the Bolingbrook roundabout and planting has now been completed.
- The Parish Council has received many compliments from residents regarding the community garden. The Open Garden event on 23rd June, part of the St Albans Sustainability Festival, was a great success. Daisy Cooper, MP, and residents visited to view the garden and chat with volunteers about the planting and general sustainability practices.
- Having received a copy of the annual tree survey from St Albans District Council (SADC), the Project Officer updated members on the remedial works that have been advised and are now being undertaken by either Mark Carter or external contractors dependent on the extent of works required. Cllr Leonard asked that a copy of the full report is provided before any action to fell the ash tree in Skyswood is taken.
- Concerns have been raised about the hazard caused by protruding roots on the William Bell footpath between The Ridgeway and Furse Avenue originating from the poplar trees in a neighbouring property's garden. The Project and Amenities Officer updated members on the complexity of the situation and advised that no remedial works could be undertaken until all parties had agreed a solution that safeguarded against future problems arising.
- Cllr Jenny Roberts and the Project Officer are due to meet with the HCC appointed sawmill operator on site at Harness Way on 9th July to fashion a bench out of the felled oak tree. Julian Thornton (HCC) agreed to confirm with the operator that the finished sawn wood could be delivered to an agreed location.
- Parish Councillors John Hale and Jenny Roberts, and the Project and Amenities Officer hosted a visit from Colney Heath Parish Councillors to Harness Way open space to better understand how the Parish organises tree planting.

830 FOOTPATHS AND RIGHTS OF WAY UPDATES

Julian Thornton provided a verbal update to Members on footpath and rights of way matters that concern the Parish.

Progress regarding expediting reinstatement of the rights of way network on the current Cemex site between Sandridge and Colney Heath as part of the contractor's s106 obligation is no further forward. David Kealey reported that he had not received a satisfactory response to a letter drafted to Cemex in January. Some conversation ensued regarding other walking routes in this area, including the Oaklands Grange development, and it was agreed that Mary Ternouth, Councillor Leonard and David Kealey would liaise separately to agree which routes were under discussion and best next steps, to update Members at the next meeting.

Julian Thornton asked that the Committee notify him of any other rights of way that could benefit from the HCC Covid recovery budget allocation as discussed at the last meeting. He confirmed routes already on the list, which included repair works to

BW53 and FP 27 at the entrance to the Jersey Farm Woodland Park. Councillor Roberts impressed upon Julian the need to get these works done and offered to meet HCC project officers on site to discuss requirements. Julian confirmed that the final selection of works due to benefit from the funding should be undertaken within the next twelve months.

Additionally, Julian Thornton informed Members of the winter scrub clearance programme, including the north end of Jersey Lane. Mary Ternouth asked that the bridleway adjacent to The Glade off House Lane be added to the list.

Councillor Roberts informed Members that a resident had contacted the Parish office to complain about the ongoing problem of water run-off from the Woodland Park blocking the soakaway and causing damage to the surfacing of the unadopted St Helier Road. There is a view that this is compounded by loose granite from the footpath laid by HCC in recent years. Julian said that he would be happy for residents to contact him directly to arrange a meeting.

831 RIGHTS OF WAY WORKING GROUP

Notes from the recent Rights of Way Working Group meeting on 21st June were previously circulated and Mary Ternouth provided a verbal update on any progress since.

832 EXPENDITURE AND MANAGEMENT PLANS

Members noted expenditure to date of just £200 for general warden duties. They were also informed of savings of £800 from April-July expenditure as a new interpretation board for Harness Way will not be commissioned due to limited findings following the first pond survey.

833 INSTALLATION OF A SAFETY GATE – HARNESS WAY

As part of the site visits (see minute 835) the Committee was informed of concerns regarding an access point to the Harness Way pond immediately opposite the play area. All Members agreed that for reasons of safety it would be advisable to install a barrier to deter entry but still allow access for maintenance, probably some form of gate, Mark Carter to advise. It was:

RESOLVED

That a barrier, retaining access for maintenance, should be installed at the entry point to the pond on Harness Way opposite the playground, to be undertaken by Mark Carter, with a budget allocation of no more than £500.

834 FOOTPATH IN SKYSWOOD

Following a request from the Committee at the last meeting, the Project and Amenities Officer provided estimated costs for installing a path of approximately sixty-five metres from the entrance to Skyswood from Sherwood Park to the entrance of St John Fisher School, using either wood chippings or granite. These are as follows:

Granite £3250 (£50 per metre)

Wood chipping £2,600 (£40 per metre)

The Project Officer also anticipated the possibility of installing a path from the Hughenden Road entrance at the same and provided additional estimate costs for a length of approximately eighty metres as follows:

Granite £4,000

Wood chipping £3,200

The Deputy Clerk advised members that whilst there was only £1,845 remaining of unallocated funding in the PEAP 2021-22 budget, there remained an option to vire funds from elsewhere in the Parish budget subject to approval from the Full Council. Following discussion, Members expressed a preference to install just the first footpath, in granite, and asked that the Project Officer proceed without delay subject to additional funding approved by Full Council at the July meeting. It was:

RESOLVED

That the Project Officer should proceed with plans to install a granite footpath of approximately 65 metres in length in Skyswood from the entrance at Sherwood Park to the rear of St John Fisher School. This is subject to Full Council approving additional vired funding from the Parish budget to make up the PEAP shortfall of approximately £1,500.

835 PEAP SITE VISITS AND PROPOSED ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES

As agreed at the last meeting, a schedule of visits was arranged to each of the key PEAP sites (William Bell, Harness Way, Damson Way, St Leonards Open Space and The Glade) for Members to take stock of works undertaken thus far and hopefully inspire new thoughts for future development where appropriate or identify any on-going maintenance needs. Notes from these visits were circulated prior to the meeting and summarised during the meeting by Councillor Roberts. Having fully allocated remaining 2021-22 PEAP budget earlier in the meeting (minutes 833 and 834) it was accepted that it would not be possible to action any of the activities identified with costs attached this year, but that these should form the basis for future PEAP plans. Members will come prepared to discuss and prioritise activities for future works at the November meeting.

836 THE QUEEN’S GREEN CANOPY INITIATIVE

The Committee was asked to consider details of The Queen’s Green Canopy initiative launched to mark the Queen’s Jubilee in 2022 and whether Members would like to participate by planting a tree or trees within any of the Parish green spaces. They were notified that The Jersey Farm Woodland Park Committee are considering the same. Cllr Leonard suggested potential for future tree planting had been identified within St Leonards Open Space. It was agreed that Members would visit any potential spaces and agree a final decision on whether they would like to participate in the initiative and a final planting site at the November meeting.

837 VOLUNTEER PROGRAMME

The Project and Amenities Officer reported that it is hoped a full programme of volunteer dates will shortly resume following relaxation of Covid guidelines.

DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING – Tuesday November 16th at 7.30pm. Venue to be determined.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.20pm.

Chair

Date