

**PARISH ENVIRONMENTAL
ASSETS & PATHS COMMITTEE**

Met at Marshalswick Community Centre
on Tuesday 25th January 2022 at 7.30 pm.

Present:	Councillor Jenny Roberts (Chair) District Councillor Frances Leonard Julian Thornton (Hertfordshire County Council) Public Members - Tony Farnfield, David Kealey, Mary Ternouth (Marshalswick Horticultural Society), Bernard Lusby
Apologies:	Councillor Patsy Cann Councillor Janet Churchard Councillor John Newton-Davies
Absent:	Councillor June Reid Councillor John Foster
Officers:	Rebecca Pannese, Project and Amenities Officer Emma Hostler, Deputy Clerk

Due to absent members the Committee was not quorate, and the meeting could not proceed formally. Decision was taken by those present to continue to discuss agenda matters informally, and these notes are intended as an informal record of those discussions.

MINUTES

It was agreed to carry over signing of the minutes of the meeting held on 16th November 2021 until the next meeting of the PEAP committee on 26th April 2022.

MATTERS OF REPORT

- The work on laying the hard surface footpath through Skyswood to the rear entrance of St John Fisher school is now complete.
- Mark Carter has undertaken remedial tree works highlighted on the recent tree survey, led volunteer tasks coppicing and clearing bramble in Skywood and undertaken tree aftercare at Harness Way.
- The Project and Amenities Officer continues to pursue quotations for solutions to repair the damaged footpath between William Bell and the Ridgeway.
- Herts County Council has agreed a contribution of £350 towards Sandridge Parish tree planting in support of The Queen's Green Canopy initiative. Trees (oak, crab apple, bird cherry and hawthorn) and hedging shrubs will be planted in St Leonard's Open Space by volunteers on 6th February, with a small ceremony attended by the Deputy Lieutenant, and the vicar and choir of St Leonard's, with some refreshments, to mark the occasion.
- The Parish Clerk is liaising with a specialist company to repair the site of a collapsed grave at St Leonard's churchyard.
- A public information afternoon regarding the new bike track at Jersey Farm Open Space was held locally in November and a planning application is currently being drafted for submission to the District Council.
- A vacancy has arisen on the Parish Council for Marshalswick North ward which may be of interest to PEAP public members, friends or family. Details will be advertised on the website and parish notice boards from Thursday 3rd February subject to there being no request for an election in response to the current notice of vacancy.

FOOTPATHS AND RIGHTS OF WAY UPDATES

Julian Thornton (HCC) provided a verbal update on current matters of footpaths and rights of way including:

- Confirmation of imminent works to repair FP 27 and BW 53 (Jersey Farm Woodland Park)

- Completion of drainage works to alleviate problems of flooding from FP 27 to St Helier Road (JFWP)
- Investigative works concerning matters of draining affecting BOAT 3 (JFWP)
- Completion of cut back to the vegetation adjacent to the copse on House Lane (opposite Gladeside)
- Continuing efforts to link up the footpath network through the new Oaklands estate (Sandpit Lane/BW 51 to Central Drive). Request made to include North Drive in the works programme.
- Remarks were shared from the Committee regarding the improved conditions of Jersey Lane

Mary Ternouth raised concerns regarding the growing trend by householders for extending fencing or building to the boundary along Jersey Lane and the ensuing loss of the green environment. This has been raised as an area of concern in previous meetings, but it was noted that efforts to address it with HCC have not been successful and further scope to do so are limited. Mary will give the matter further consideration.

RIGHTS OF WAY WORKING GROUP

Mary Ternouth provided a summary report of the recent meeting of the Rights of Way working group on 14th January which was circulated to members. This included reference to the recent agreement from HCC to include the footpath from House Lane to Jersey Farm Woodland Park/BW 53 on the Definitive Map and Statement, subject to a 6-week period for any objections or representations.

EXPENDITURE AND MANAGEMENT PLANS

The Deputy Clerk informed committee members that current expenditure from the annual budget totalled £3,548 with the expectation of a final year end outturn of approximately £4,100.

The PEAP budget for 2022-23 has now been agreed by Full Council and is £6,000. The Deputy Clerk distributed an up-to-date activity planner of anticipated committed spend to members with a view to discussion at the next meeting.

FUTURE WORKS – EXTENSION OF THE SKYSWOOD FOOTPATH

As the meeting was not quorate it was agreed to defer voting on a proposal to extend the Skyswood footpath until the next meeting of the PEAP committee in April.

VOLUNTEER PROGRAMME

The Project and Amenities Officer informed the Committee of future volunteer activities, including erecting skylark fencing on the Woodland Park and preparation of the ground for wildflower planting at Sherwood Park.

DATE OF FUTURE PEAP MEETINGS

26th April 2022
 12th July 2022
 15th November 2022
 24th January 2023
 25th April 2023

DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING – Tuesday 26th April 2022 at 7.30pm at Marshalswick Community Centre.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.45pm.