

**PARISH ENVIRONMENTAL  
ASSETS & PATHS COMMITTEE**

Met at Marshalswick Community Centre  
on Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> April 2022 at 7.30 pm.

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

**847 DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST AND DISPENSATIONS**

Mark Carter declared an interest as a self-employed contractor for Sandridge Parish Council.

**848 MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> November 2021, having been previously circulated, were taken as a correct record subject and it was unanimously:

**RESOLVED**

That the minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> November 2021 be approved and signed by the Chair as a correct record.

Members agreed that the previously circulated informal record of discussions of a non-quorate meeting of the Committee on 25<sup>th</sup> January 2022 were also correct.

**849 MATTERS OF REPORT**

- Approval to proceed with stage two of footpath resurfacing through Skyswood from Sherwood Park to Hughenden Road has been given at the 9<sup>th</sup> February meeting of Full Council. The contractor has scheduled the works for some time in April to early May. An allocation of £4,000 has been made in the PEAP 2022-23 budget. *Post meeting note: the Project and Amenities Officer has since been informed by the contractor of a delay to the works due to a national supply issue with crushed gravel required for resurfacing.*
- A ceremony was held in St Leonard's Open Space and trees planted as part of the Queen's Green Canopy initiative to encourage tree planting across the country to mark the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. The event was attended by the Deputy Lieutenant of Hertfordshire, County, District and Parish Councillors, the vicar of St Leonard's Church, the choir and wider community. Volunteers planted 4 trees (oak, crab apple, bird cherry, hawthorn) and also native hedgerow alongside the path running from the play area to the church yard.
- Mark Carter has cleared the pond at Harness Way (removing the invasive New Zealand Pigmyweed) and bramble around the new tree plantings.
- Wood chip will be laid on the three access points to Harness Way Open Space at the request of the Sports and Recreation Ground Committee.

- A preferred contractor has been identified to undertake repair and resurfacing of the footpath from William Bell to the Ridgeway. The proposed solution will allow for future growth of the tree roots below the footpath which have caused the current problem.
- The Parish Council Jersey Farm Woodland Park Management Committee recently met with representatives from Herts & Middlesex Wildlife Trust (HMWT), Wilder St Albans, and Butterfly Conservation and gave approval to proceed with plans to build a series of butterfly banks in the Woodland Park (north corner, facing south). The Committee has commissioned an ecological survey to ensure that the location of the banks is appropriate for the pre-existing ecology in the area. Further information can be provided by the parish office.
- A planning application is being completed for the installation of a bike track on the Jersey Farm Open Space and an ecological survey has been commissioned.
- Cllrs Frances Leonard (SADC), John Hale (HCC/SPC) and Jenny Roberts (SPC) met with Mary Ternouth and Julian Thornton (HCC) to discuss the loss of green habitat along the Jersey Lane corridor. Further discussions are planned with SADC.

#### **850 FOOTPATHS AND RIGHTS OF WAY UPDATES**

Julian Thornton (HCC) provided a verbal update on footpaths and rights of way relating to the parish. This includes:

- Providing an overview on HCC Countryside Management Services revenue and capital budgets for the year.
- Progress establishing extent of and responsibility for BOAT 3 (rear of Highview Gardens) including for the pond (adjacent to Sandringham Crescent).
- Seeking S106 funding to assist with completion of the footpath network through the Oaklands development.
- FP 26 (Nashes Farm) still waiting on Definitive Map team.
- Vegetation management along Jersey Lane

Committee members alerted Julian to fallen trees still awaiting clearance following recent storms.

#### **851 RIGHTS OF WAY WORKING GROUP**

Mary Ternouth provided a written summary report previously distributed to Members on developments following the March meeting of the Right of Way Working Group. Councillor Frances Leonard updated members on a recent meeting with Cemex, and David Kealey on work updating finger posts across the parish.

#### **852 EXPENDITURE AND MANAGEMENT PLANS**

The Committee noted that the year end spend against budget for 2021-22 was £3,973. The Committee also noted that the PEAP budget for 2022-23 is £6,000 which includes an additional £2,000 provision for the second stage of resurfacing the footpath through Skyswood (see Matters of Report).

Members reviewed the previously distributed copy of the 2022-23 activity planner with associated expenses based on recently revised management plans for Harness Way, William Bell, Sherwood Park, Damson Way, and St Leonard's Open Space. The Committee was asked to consider use of the remaining £1,080 discretionary spend in the annual budget. The Chair, Councillor Roberts, suggested visiting PEAP sites in June to assist with this.

The Project and Amenities Officer will contact HMWT regarding the follow-up pond survey.

The Project and Amenities Officer informed the Committee of works arising in Sherwood Park and Skyswood following the SADC tree survey, including an internal decay on a mature oak tree.

**853 THE PARISH SUMMER EVENT JERSEY FARM WOODLAND PARK**

Members were informed that the Parish is holding a summer event on the Jersey Farm Woodland Park on Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> June to mark the Queen's Platinum Jubilee, comprising an afternoon of outdoor games, choirs, dog show and stalls running into an evening music event. An appeal was made for volunteer support on the day.

**854 VOLUNTEER PROGRAMME**

It was agreed to discuss ideas for future volunteer activities at the July meeting. Mark Carter proposed planting additional hedgerow at Spencer Meadow. Councillor Roberts proposed tidying an area in St Leonard's church yard where trees have recently been removed. The Committee also agreed that there was scope to introduce mid-week tasks for volunteers.

**DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING** – Tuesday 12<sup>TH</sup> July at 7.30pm at Marshalswick Community Centre.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.35pm.

**Chair** .....

**Date** .....