

**PARISH ENVIRONMENTAL  
ASSETS & PATHS COMMITTEE**

Met at Marshalswick Community Centre  
on Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> January at 7.30 pm.

**Present:**

Councillors June Reid (in the Chair)  
Jenny Roberts, John Newton–Davies

Frances Leonard, Bernard Lusby, Tony Farnfield

Mr. Julian Thornton, Hertfordshire County Council

**Apologies:**

Mary Ternouth, Mark Carter, Pat Forward, David Kealey

**Officer:**

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

**DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST**

There were no disclosures of interest.

**724 MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> November, having previously been circulated, were taken as a correct record and it was unanimously:

**RESOLVED**

That the minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> November 2018 be approved and signed by the Chair as a correct record.

**725 MATTERS OF REPORT**

- The following PEAP taskforce days have been included in the volunteer calendar:
  - Maintenance of the hedge around the pond at Harness Way Open Space on 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2019
  - Tree planting at William Bell Open Space on 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2019
- Skyswood volunteer day on 6<sup>th</sup> January was very successful, with a good turn out and pleasant weather. The group performed bramble clearance, hazel coppicing and log piling. Six Hazel trees were also planted in Skyswood on the day, and a further four in Damson Way.
- Mark Carter cleared a further 1/3 of the pond at Damson Way as requested at the PEAP meeting on 20<sup>th</sup> November.
- Hertfordshire County Council (Julian Thornton) have cleared the grips along Jersey Lane by Belsize Close and cleared the gully by Regents Close where Footpath 26 crosses Jersey Lane.
- Work is set to begin resurfacing and repairing Footpath 27 imminently.
- The Sustainable St Albans Crab Apple tree was planted in William Bell Open Space on the 19<sup>th</sup> December.

**726 FOOTPATH REPORT**

- Julian Thornton gave an update on the status of the footpath running from House Lane to Jersey Lane, informing the Committee that the landowner has submitted a statutory deposit under Section 31-6 of the 1980 Highways Act, to Hertfordshire County Council, providing an account of the rerouted footpath around the boundary of the landowner's plot. The Project and Amenities Officer informed the Committee that the Parish Council has now collated all the information necessary, including 33 user evidence statements, to make an application for the original route of the footpath to be established as a definitive right of way, and that this would be submitted to the County Council imminently.

- The diversion of Footpath 26 is still ongoing.
- Julian Thornton informed the Committee that Sandringham School has now appointed an Agent to take forward the future status of Footpath 29A, the current options being to divert or stop up the footpath. JT advised the Committee to make known to the School their preferences regarding the future of the footpath at this stage. The Committee agreed that this matter should be progressed via the forum of the Full Council, asking that they are kept up to date with any progress.
- Julian Thornton reported that he would be looking into the reports of excessive ivy growth on top of the garages opposite the Ridgeway flats with a view to some removal if appropriate.
- Councillor Jenny Roberts expressed some concern over tree droppings at the Sandringham Crescent/Jersey Lane junction causing the pathways to become slippery. Julian Thornton informed the Committee that some informal sweeping and silt removal would be taking place soon which should alleviate this.

**727 TREE PLANTING IN WILLIAM BELL**

Following the planting of the Sustainable St Albans Tree in William Bell Open Space, the Committee considered the proposal to plant a further six trees, a mix of Crab Apple and Flowering Cherry as advised by Mark Carter, in small copse formation on the same site. The Committee agreed that metal tree guards should be used as the best form of protection and the budget should be increased to accommodate this. The planting will be undertaken by the volunteer group on the 3<sup>rd</sup> March. The planting of further trees can be reviewed by the Committee at a future date. Following this discussion, it was unanimously:

**RESOLVED**

To approve the planting of six trees at William Bell Open Space.

**728 TO CREATE A WILDLIFE HEDGE ALONG A SECTION OF FENCING AT WILLIAM BELL OPEN SPACE**

The Committee discussed the idea of planting a wildlife encouraging hedge along the fence line from Furse Avenue to the recreation area, approximately 25 metres. There is currently a chain link fence at this location. Following this, it was unanimously:

**RESOLVED**

To plant a wildlife encouraging hedge along the fence line from Furse Avenue to the recreation area at William Bell Open Space.

**729 CREATING A COMMUNITY GARDEN**

The Committee considered the report submitted by the Project Officer for the creation of a Community Garden at Harness Way Open Space, around the corner from the pond. It was agreed that a low maintenance planting scheme would be best, possibly a mix of wildflower and vegetables. The Project Officer will seek guidance from Mark Carter on the best planting scheme with a view to providing a draft design for the Garden at the next meeting. The Committee agreed a £1,000 budget to develop the idea, although the Project Officer will need to check whether it is feasible to carry this funding over from the 2018 budget into the next financial year, or not.

Following this discussion, it was unanimously:

**RESOLVED**

To move forward with the idea of a Community Garden in Harness Way, including drafting designs based on a low maintenance wildflower/vegetable planting scheme and a timing plan, to an initial budget of £1,000 at this stage.

**730 RIGHTS OF WAY UPDATE**

Julian Thornton reported on this matter earlier in the meeting (see 726).

**731 FINANCE**

It was noted that there has been no expenditure from the PEAP Committee from mid November 2018 – January 2019.

**732 ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

It was agreed that the next Litter Pick should take place on Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> March.

**733 MATTERS FOR THE NEXT AGENDA**

There were none.

**DATE OF NEXT MEETING: Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> April 2019 at 7.30pm**

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.50 pm.

**Chair** .....

**Date** .....