



MINUTES OF WYTHALL PARISH COUNCIL COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 3rd OCTOBER, 7.30 PM

PRESENT: Cllr. Helen Cleaver Committee Chairperson
Cllr. Dianne Taylor PC Chairperson
Cllr. Keith Yates
Cllr. Les Turner
Cllr. Omar Ahmed
Cllr. Stephen Peters
Cllr. Margaret Dempsey
Cllr. Kathryn Powell

ALSO, PRESENT: Ms. Naazlin Somani Parish Clerk

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Councillors Sarah Hession and Kathryn Kingston, these were agreed by all Councillors present.

2. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

No members of the Council declared a pecuniary or other interest on any items noted on the agenda.

3. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the previous meeting were received and adopted as an accurate record subject to the following amendments:

- (i) The list of Members presented be updated to include Councillor Kathryn Powell; and
- (ii) The value of the grant received for the defibrillator be amended to read £1480.00.

4. ACTIONS ARISING

The action table was received, and updates provided on the following actions:

- (i) Grassing cutting contract – the Clerk confirmed that the contract contained a 12-month review clause. Agreed that there would be a further discussion at the next meeting.
- (ii) Footway maintenance plan – the Clerk reported that WCC did not have a footway maintenance plan however, Lindford Way and Hale Close were expected to have some repair work done. Noted that Cllr. Kent was putting £40k in to footpath improvements which would include additional work on Douglas Road, in the next financial year. Agreed, the previous quarters inspection would be requested.

ACTION: Clerk to obtain a copy of the previous WCC footway inspection report.

- (iii) Reporting of weeds to WCC – Noted that the Parish Office were continuing to report issues with weeds and overgrown hedges to WCC, a record of the areas being reported was being maintained.
- (iv) Grit bins – the Clerk reported that an assessment of the locations had taken place. The outcome of the assessment confirmed that the Council were unable to install bins purchased from a private company in the locations identified. Highway were in the process of undertaking assessments for the installation of yellow grit bins and green grit bins purchased through WCC. An updated would be provided on completion of the assessment.

Reported, the Parish Council used Swiftwell to fill the bins at a cost of £80.00 per bin, per filling.

5. VILLAGE MAINTENANCE AND SERVICES

5.1. Roads, Trees, Verges and Weeds

Noted, details of trees blocking footway lighting had been reported to the District Council. Noted concerns whether action would be taken to cut the trees back. Agreed that the Clerk would contact the District Council. Agreed the Clerk would check what action was taken when trees on private land were blocking lighting on the highway/footpaths.

Discussed areas where streetlights were located on the wrong side of the road. Agreed this would need to be reviewed at a later date.

ACTION: Clerk to contact BDC to check if trees were being cut back to prevent the blocking of streetlights.

5.2. Sponsorship of Islands

The Chair of the Council reported that BDC had confirmed, Wythall Island belonged to the Parish Council. Discussed sponsorship of the island and potential the income.

Agreed that sponsorship should cover the cost of maintenance allowing the Council to reallocated funds into additional services and projects.

Reported, the District Council were yet to confirm ownership of the Phoenix Island.

Agreed, the Council needed to confirm whether a tendering process needed to be followed for the sponsorship of the island and if a reserve could be applied.

ACTION: Cllr. Taylor to confirm with BDC the process for sponsorship and if a reserve could be applied. An update would be provided at the Finance Committee.

6. PARISH LENGTHSMAN

Reported, the Clerk had met with highways to consider the option of a self-employed grounds person. Reported that WCC would provide training and PPE for the self-employed person.

Noted, the Clerk was due to meet with the Bromsgrove Place Team to gather information on using their team to cover Lengthsman duties.

Agreed details of the two options available would be presented for consideration following the meeting with the Bromsgrove Place Team.

Reported, Council income and expenditure in relation to the Lengthsman:

- (i) 2018-19 financial year
 - Contribution from WCC £3748.50
 - Expenditure £3472.00

- (ii) 2019-20 financial year
 - Contribution from WCC £1820.00
 - Expenditure £672.00

7. FOOTWAY LIGHTING

Considered the list of locations for additional lighting, previously circulated. Noted that Cllrs. Dempsey's suggestions had been sent to the interim Clerk, these needed to be added to the list.

Agreed that the Council needed obtain quotes for the installation of the additional lighting. A consultation with residents would also need to take place.

ACTION: clerk to obtain quotes for the installation of the additional street lighting and provide an update at the next meeting.

8. ALLOTMENTS

Reported that the Chair of the Council was continuing to move the project forward. A discussion was expected to take place at the next dementia meeting on possible involvement with the community allotment plot. Agreed, a further update would be provided when available.

9. STREET FURNITURE

Noted that street furniture had been allocated to Councillors at the full Council meeting in September. Noted that the Clerk would be forwarding a pro forma to undertake an assessment of the furniture. Noted that the assessments were conducted twice a year.

Discussed lighting at Gorse Lotts War Memorial. Noted that lights had been installed previously, these seemed to be having a positive impact. Agreed that there would be a further review following the winter period.

ACTION: A review of the lighting, at the War Memorial, to take place in March/April 2020 to allow Councillors to see how they worked over the winter

Adopted at Full Council
17th October 2019

months. More feedback may be received after the November remembrance service.

10. TRANSPORT

Noted that there was £250k of S106 monies which had not been accessed. Noted, Councillor Hession had been investigating. Agreed, Councillor Hession would be asked to provide an update at the next meeting.

ACTION: Councillor Hession provide an update at the next meeting.

11. ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

Noted, there had been some localized flooding but nothing to major was reported.

12. COMMUNITY EQUIPMENT

Reported, the school visit, to the station took place on 25th September, approximately 6 students attended with the teacher who is leading the project.

Reported the defibrillator had been added to the station maintenance list.

13. CHRISTMAS LIGHT COMPETITION

Discussed arrangements for the Christmas Light Competition. Agreed that there would be three categories; (i) private residence; (ii) complexes; and (iii) businesses. Agreed posters would be produced and displayed on the Parish Council notice board and details would be placed on the website.

Agreed that the competition would open mid-November and judging would take place shortly before Christmas.

Agreed Councillors Dempsey and Powell would be judges, there would be a further discussion at full Council to agree additional judges.

ACTION: develop poster for the competition and advertise on the website. Agree additional judges and produce the nomination forms.

14. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Community Services Committee will take place on Thursday 7th November 2019, commencing at 19:30 hrs. in the Parish Council Offices.

The Meeting closed at 20:29 hrs.