

Stretton Parish Council

Open Spaces Committee

Minutes of Meeting held on Tuesday 23rd November 2021

IN ATTENDANCE : Cllr S Tilley
Cllr K Winson
Cllr S Campion
Cllr J McKiernan
Cllr P Scanlan
Cllr T Williams
Mrs A J Smith - Clerk

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies to be received.

2. JUBILEE PLAYING FIELD

- Stretton Eagles have made a request for pre-approval to use the field during school holidays. The meeting discussed the request and did not wish to give pre-approval to use the field as and when but asked that requests should be made in advance to take into consideration ground condition and weather.
- Kickwall. It was noted that the tarmac surface is holding water which could freeze and become dangerous. The Clerk to discuss with the contractor.
- Floodlight Update - The Clerk informed that the groundworks are to be undertaken by T Bates Ltd with work starting on Monday 29th November. The installation of the lights is scheduled for w/c 13th December and following a site survey it was felt that new cables were needed.
- Stretton Gala - The Gala committee have asked if it would be possible to use the field for the Gala on Sunday 22nd May 2022. This was unanimously granted.
- Cllr Campion suggested that the south hedge needs specialist layering which would help to thicken and the elders removed. A mixture of maple, hawthorn and blackthorn can also be introduced to areas. Cllr Campion to provide contact information.
- It was agreed that the ditch / hedge along the canal side of the field should be improved.
- Michael Tomlinson to be asked to take the top of the hedge adjacent to Derby Road which should help to widen its growth.

3. JINNY NATURE TRAIL

- Noticeboard - the board had become rotten and dangerous and therefore removed. The Clerk advised of the options to replace with either another wooden one or one made of recycled materials; or to refurbish the wooden one at Jubilee Playing Field and reinstate on the Jinny. Upon discussion it was proposed that the Full Council should make the decision as to whether to replace or not.
- Drainage Slips - The Clerk advised that T Bates Ltd has suggested repairing the 3 areas with sandbags filled with a concrete mix at the bottom and a mixture of soil and seed at the top. The total cost £2040.00 plus VAT. This was considered emergency works and the quote unanimously agreed.

- Decking - The Clerk advised that following an assessment of the decking it would be best to fully replace in the Spring. In the meantime, a weekly condition assessment is to be undertaken and the area cordoned off if it is felt to be too dangerous. The Clerk to look at options and costs.
- Planting - wildflower/grass seed to be sown behind the benches at the entrance/bank and on the area adjacent to the steps and pond. Pond plants to be purchased for the side of the pond to form a natural boundary. Bushes to be purchased for the reinstated bank to help solidate the bank plus bird/butterfly seed to be sown alongside the ditch.
- The steps at the loading dock need some attention as they are open and need rises. The railings should also be painted in the Spring. Cllr McKiernan suggested opening up and extending the back path.

The Clerk advised of the response from Staffordshire Wildlife regarding holding a bird box event with local schools. The Clerk to discuss with William Shrewsbury and Fountains to assess numbers etc.

Cllr Tilley informed on bug hotel structures.

4. OTHER MAINTAINED AREAS

Woodland - Agreed to plant fruit bushes along the fence to the access gate and then try the hedge suggestion from the gate to the first group of trees.

5. DATE/TIME OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting to be arranged towards the end of January 2022.