

Gnosall Parish Council

Minutes of the meeting held of the Open Spaces Committee Held on Monday 30 November 2009 at 7.30pm

Present:	Cllr T Simkin, in the Chair Cllr R Greatrex Cllr S Wallis Cllr Haycock Jayne Cooper, Clerk	Cllr G Payne (from 7.40pm) Cllr Willetts Cllr Booth 2 members of the public
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	Public Open Forum Mr Whittick, on behalf of the Allotment Association, gave the Clerk a report on the recent flooding on the allotment site. He said that clearing the brook would alleviate this problem but understands that all land owners (where the brook runs through) would need to work together to make the job effective. The report asked the Parish Council to contact the land owners about this problem. It was generally agreed that the best solution would be to find more suitable land. The Clerk said despite contacting Severn Trent many times about the land adjacent to the allotments she had not had a response. Cllr Simkin said more effort would be made to look at alternative land. Mr Whittick also confirmed that the Allotment Association are happy to fund half the costs of the fencing around areas of the allotment site and that the original quote could be reduced if a metal gate was obtained rather than a wooden one.	
1	To receive apologies, record absences and welcome new members to the committee. Apologies had been received from Cllr Tomkinson.	
2	To receive and confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 19 October The minutes were proposed, seconded and agreed as a true record.	
3	To consider any matters arising from the minutes The BKV Cheese and Wine event had been planned for 3 December at 7.30pm. All supporters and councillors had been invited. Cllr Payne gave his apologies.	
4	To receive an update regarding the flood plain project. Cllr Greatrex reported that Mr Abbott, the Chairman of the Flood Plain Group, had resigned and the secretary would be calling a meeting in the new year to elect a new Chairman and get the group up and running again. The Clerk had written to E-on regarding the piece of land that would be part of the flood plain project to seek their views and a response is awaited. Cllr Greatrex and Cllr Simkin are still in discussions with Staffordshire Wildlife Trust regarding this project. It was noted that funds are available until the end of 2010.	

	<p>Cllr Booth reminded the committee that Council had made a decision to progress to the next stage of the project and when it is time to progress further, Council would have to give their approval.</p> <p>Cllr Payne said, in his opinion, getting land owners to help with clearing the brook would not solve the problem as more water from properties is being channelled into it.</p> <p>Cllr Greatrex said the Environment Agency had said that clearing the brook from Lower Reule Farm to the A518 and then to the Sports and Social Club would help the situation but not solve it.</p> <p>Cllr Booth said the Parish Council has wider considerations to bear in mind, this is community land and the majority need to be looked after.</p> <p>Cllr Simkin said the Parish Council will work with the flood plain group when it is re-established but will continue with the project.</p>	
5	<p>To receive an update on the allotment association requests</p> <p>The Clerk gave a verbal report on the requests made at the last meeting.</p> <p>She had contacted Severn Trent regarding the poor condition of the allotment road and had sent a follow up letter in the past week asking for a response.</p> <p>The Parish Council's insurance company had been contacted to find out if the Allotment Association is insured to remove overgrown shrubbery. The response received was they are insured if they use the Parish Council's equipment and suggestions were given for specific Allotment Association insurance which had been passed on.</p> <p>The water supply had been turned off at the allotments and the water troughs drained.</p> <p>Fly tipping at the allotment site had been reported to the office and would be reported to Street Scene.</p>	Clerk
6	<p>To agree allotment renewal arrangements for 2010 and consider the annual fee.</p> <p>It was agreed that the renewals would be managed by the office and letters would be sent to tenants detailing the specific times and dates.</p> <p>The annual fee would be discussed as a confidential item at the end of the meeting</p>	
7	<p>To consider any maintenance requirements including an update on the park, lock up and notice boards</p> <p>Lock-Up Door – The Clerk and the Handyman had met with a representative from English Heritage and a report was given. It was agreed that the Parish Council should have a management agreement with English Heritage which would give an annual sum of money to help with any maintenance costs. All maintenance requests would be directed to English Heritage who would complete all necessary paperwork. The Clerk to action.</p>	Clerk

	<p>It was also noted that the Parish Council could apply to the Heritage Lottery Fund if it planned to organise village walks, visits to the Lock Up etc.</p> <p>Park – quotes for safety surfacing would be reviewed as a confidential item.</p> <p>Notice Boards – a specification and quotation for replacement boards would be discussed as a confidential item.</p> <p>The Clerk reported that defence papers had been submitted regarding the rejected boards purchased from Village and Urban. Details of a mediation service had been received. The Clerk had contacted the Mediation Officer to say the Parish Council would be willing to mediate if Village and Urban were in agreement. The Clerk explained that this was part of the process and if it was not possible to mediate then a hearing would still go ahead. Cllr Wallis and Cllr Simkin agreed to be present with the Clerk during the mediation telephone calls and before that they would meet to confirm the facts to be discussed during the mediation. The Clerk to contact Trading Standards for advice.</p> <p>Cllr Willetts commented that the notice board on the Memorial Village Hall car park would be more effective if it was facing the other way and the shrubbery reduced. The Clerk to ask the Handyman to see what could be done.</p> <p>Repositioning of the bench behind Grosvenor Centre Two options were considered, one next to the notice board on the High Street and one near to the park car park. It was agreed the High Street would be more suitable subject to the Clerk checking with Rosebuds Nursery and checking with Highways. The Handyman to refurbish the bench before it is repositioned. Cllr Greatrex was asked to find out about bench ends and a possible Parish Council design.</p>	<p>Clerk Cllrs Simkin and Wallis</p> <p>Clerk Handyman</p> <p>Clerk Handyman Cllr Greatrex</p>
8	<p>To receive any correspondence received in relation to Open Spaces</p> <p>A letter had been received from Staffordshire County Council regarding the grass cutting which would be referred to at the end of the meeting.</p> <p>The Clerk confirmed she had written to Station Road residents to ask that no garden rubbish is deposited on The Acres. No responses had been received. It was reported that the garden debris is still there and it was agreed that JWH be asked to remove it and a follow up letter sent to Station Road residents saying the rubbish had been removed and asking for their assistance in monitoring the area.</p>	Clerk
9	<p>To confirm the time and date for the next meeting 18 January 2010. The members of public had left the meeting</p>	
	<p>Confidential Items discussed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Budget requirements for 2010-2011 • Quotes for the safety surfacing at the play park • Specification and quote for notice board replacements. • Tenders for grass cutting for 2010 - 2013 	

The meeting closed at 9.45pm.