

## **Gnosall Parish Council**

### **Minutes of the Open Spaces Committee meeting held on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> July 2011 at 7.30pm**

Present   Cllr T Simkin   Cllr R Greatrex   Cllr D Willetts   Cllr P Boston  
              Cllr M Deegan   Cllr J Tomkinson   Cllr K Abbott   Cllr J Cook

2 members of the public

**PUBLIC OPEN FORUM** - no comments raised

**1. To receive apologies and record absences.**

Apologies received from Cllr Payne.

**2. To receive and confirm the minutes of the meetings held on 16 May 2011**

The minutes were approved as a true and accurate record.

**3. To consider any matters arising not elsewhere on the agenda**

- BT phone boxes – no response received so far
- Bus Stop Brookhouse Road – the broken pane would be replaced in August
- Insurance notice at allotments – now on display
- Details from SCC re uses of A boards on highways received and would be deferred to Planning Committee to discuss
- Signposts in Moreton – Highways had confirmed that they could replace the wooden finger posts with metal ones but would not carry out any repairs on the current wooded ones. The Clerk had been given a contact of a local person who had carried out some similar repairs in Wheaton Aston and she would make contact to see if he would be interested in the work required in Moreton.
- Grass cutting – 3 additional small areas of grass had been identified in Gnosall that are not covered under JWH Ground Maintenance's Contract. SCC had requested the areas to be measured and the details reported to them so they could add the costs of mowing to the annual amount they pay to GPC.
- CPRE renewal – this was discussed again as another councillor had suggested CPRE are a useful source of advice for planning matters. It was agreed not to renew.
- The Acres hay – it was agreed, because prices of hay would be part of the discussion, to defer this item to the end of the meeting to discuss confidentially

**4. To consider any maintenance requirements**

**The park and play areas**

- The Clerk was asked to book an appointment with ROSPA for the annual play area inspection
- The Clerk reported that a tree on the edge of the Acres is overhanging into a private garden. JWH Ground Maintenance had been asked to quote for pruning.
- Overhanging branches near to the play areas would be managed by the Handyman

**Allotments**

- Following the annual inspection held on 21 June, the Clerk had been asked to contact allotment holders who appeared not to be managing their plots. It had been reported that there are several areas where rubbish is being dumped and is getting unsightly.

- Road planings had been delivered to two areas on the allotment site not crushed aggregate as planned. The Clerk would liaise with Highways to discuss.
- Severn Trent to be asked to cut the strip of land adjacent to the brook which they usually do annually.
- The hedge on the left hand side at the bottom end of the allotment site to be trimmed.
- It was agreed that funds from the allotment income would be used to renumber all of the allotment plots and to purchase small boards to be positioned next to each water trough to allow notices/messages to be displayed.

#### **Benches**

- The Handyman had started to refurbish the benches and would continue with this amongst his usual schedule of work.

### **5. To receive an update from the Acres Management Working Group on recent meetings and action taken and to focus on the priorities for the coming months.**

A report on progress made to date on the Acres Management project was received. Notes from meetings held with the Environment Agency who had been asked to advise on planned work to Doley Brook and the surrounding area. Alternative suggestions to manage this had been received which included the creation of a second pool that would connect with the existing pond via a narrow channel to act as a management silt trap. The EA had advised that any works to the brook need to take account that the brook is a low flow watercourse for most the year. Further liaison with Severn Trent Water and the EA is needed to monitor the pollutions and GPC should be more active in highlighting the increasing pollution. The Clerk to obtain photos of the recent pollution taken by a concerned resident.

Notes following a meeting regarding the board walk plans were also received highlighting the proposed location of the boardwalk which it was agreed, should include a connecting spur to enter the allotment site.

A meeting with the Community Council of Staffordshire would be held later in July to discuss possible funding.

Cllr Deegan was thanked for his reports. The next Acres Management Group meeting would be held on 21 July at 7pm.

Mr Simon Whittick left the meeting.

### **6. To receive any correspondence received in relation to Open Spaces**

None received.

### **7. To confirm the time and date for the next meeting**

18 October 2011 at 7.30pm