

Gnosall Parish Council
Minutes of the Open Spaces Committee meeting
Held on 19th May 2014 at 7.30pm

Present: Cllr T Simkin (in the chair), Cllr Sue Green, Cllr Mike Deegan, Cllr Dave Willetts, Cllr Roger Greatrex, Jayne Cooper

Press and Public Open Forum (none present)

1	<p>To elect a chairman and Vice Chairman for the Open Spaces committee</p> <p>Cllr Simkin was proposed as Chairman. This was seconded and agreed. The position was accepted. Cllr Deegan was proposed as Vice Chairman. This was seconded and agreed and the position accepted.</p>	
2	<p>To receive apologies and record absences</p> <p>Apologies received from Cllr Cook, Cllr Tomkinson, Cllr Alker</p>	
3	<p>To receive any Declarations of Interest</p> <p>There were no declarations of interest.</p>	
4	<p>To receive and confirm the minutes of the meetings held on 20th March 2014</p> <p>The minutes of the meeting were approved as a true and accurate record.</p>	
5	<p>To consider any matters arising not elsewhere on the agenda</p> <p>There were no matters arising.</p>	
6	<p>To receive an update on a meeting held with Staffordshire County Council and the Environment Agency on unauthorised work carried out on the Doley Brook</p> <p>On 14th May Cllr Deegan, Cllr Greatrex and the Clerk met with James Tyler-Morris (Staffordshire County Council Farms Group Manager) and Lucy Smith from the Environment Agency. The meeting was called to voice GPC's concerns about the dredging done on a section of the brook owned by GPC, but more importantly to discuss SCC concerns about the brook that is possibly causing the prolonged flooding at Plardiwick Farm.</p> <p>GPC clarified all the extensive works carried out in 2012 and explained what GPC thought was causing the flooding upstream – not the management of the Acres but the recent weather, local environmental factors and possibly even shrinkage of the underlying peat after drainage. Some of the best evidence was old aerial photos from the 60's/70's that were viewed.</p> <p>It was suggested to SCC that the two flooded fields are taken out of the tenancy agreement and entered into an Environmental Stewardship Scheme that would benefit from income (to the farmer, not SCC). This would form an almost continual piece of land from Doley Common down to the Acres and ease pressure on demands for detrimental management of the brook</p> <p>Mr Tyler-Morris agreed to consider this matter in 12 months time after GPC had carried out some maintenance work.</p>	

	<p>At the meeting GPC agreed to clear the silt lagoon as soon as possible as this had filled much quicker than first thought, cut much of the brook vegetation on its section this year and clear the overflow channel. GPC with the help of the EA would carry out a series of monitoring before and after to correlate with what is happening up stream at Plardiwick Farm and Doley Common SSSI.</p> <p>The action agreed at the meeting was accepted by members and would be implemented later this year a date to be agreed with the Environment Agency.</p>	<p>Cllr Deegan and Clerk to arrange</p>
7	<p>To receive an update on the Fun Weekend, 18th-20th July 2014 and agree action to be taken</p> <p>Fun Fair – arrangements had been confirmed by the fun fair organisers. The Clerk to contact Highways to arrange a dropped kerb onto the Village Green (as previously approved) The Clerk to write to neighbouring properties informing them of the date of the fair The Clerk to contact the fair organisers to determine number of rides and cost.</p> <p>Football Tournament – arrangements in hand. Cllr Simkin would give a full report at the next meeting.</p> <p>It's A Knockout Event – Cllr Green had obtained three quotations from companies that hire inflatable activities. Details were shared and discussed and it was felt the quotation and choice of activities from "Jumparty" was best value. The Clerk informed members that Councillor Winnington had agreed to donate £250 from his County Councillor fund for this event. The Clerk reminded members that GPC had agreed £500 in this year's budget. From the list of activities received, it was agreed that a 4-man gladiator duel, a 40ft inflatable assault course for children up to age 11 and a Rodeo bull would be the preferred choice. Cllr Green to contact the hirers to determine a total price to include generators. Cllrs would be asked to help supervise activities.</p> <p>Wild Play/Bird Box Making – Stafford College students were not able to organise this event on the dates planned therefore South Staffordshire College would be approached, then Staffordshire Wildlife Trust. Cllr Greatrex also offered to help with bird box making but materials would have to be purchased. Cllr Green to action.</p> <p>Ice Cream Van/stall – Red Lion Farm in Haughton to be contacted to check whether they could organise a van/stall on Saturday 19th July.</p> <p>Remote Control Car Racing – an update from Mr Prince is awaited.</p> <p>Gnosall Community Fire Officer had also expressed an interest in helping with or planning an event and details would be obtained for the next meeting. Clerk to chase.</p> <p>Publicity would be arranged early in June to ensure a programme is printed in the July edition of GPN. A meeting was arranged on 4th June to finalise arrangements and this would be reported to Council on 9th June.</p>	<p>Clerk</p> <p>Cllr Simkin</p> <p>Cllr Green</p> <p>Cllr Green</p> <p>Clerk</p> <p>Paul Prince</p> <p>Clerk</p> <p>All members/ Clerk</p>

8	<p>To receive an update regarding Phase 3 of the Acres including funding claims</p> <p>Plans for phase 3 are in hand and ongoing and would continue throughout the summer months.</p>	Cllr Deegan
9	<p>To consider a management brief for all GPC owned open space areas</p> <p>It was agreed a short management brief for The Acres, Village Green, Chippy Jumps and The Wold would be a useful document for Council and would inform parishioners of the key features, objectives, descriptions and priorities for each of the sites. Members were asked to think about what should be included in the briefs for each of the sites and report back. Once this information is received, Cllr Deegan offered to draft documents for approval at a future meeting.</p> <p>In relation to The Wold (the small piece of land between Greenfields and The Flashes), it was suggested this land, that currently serves no real recreation purpose, be included in the Neighbourhood Plan should there be a need for land to be identified for development.</p>	<p>All members</p> <p>Cllr Deegan</p>
10	<p>To review the maintenance programme and consider including water course management</p> <p>The maintenance programme for the next three months was reviewed. Much of the work detailed is carried out by JWH Ground Maintenance or the Handyman. Members noted the work to be carried out up to and including July 2014.</p> <p>In relation to the wild flower meadow, it was agreed that income from the hay cut from The Acres be used to purchase good quality wild flower hay to enhance the current meadow. Cllr Deegan to obtain details.</p> <p>It was agreed that a water course management programme should be included in the Acres management plans to ensure the brook and surrounding area is maintained to current regulations. Cllr Deegan to draw up a detailed specification for interested companies and subject to Council approval, this could be offered on a long term contract similar to the grass cutting contract. Budget requirements would be considered at Resources Committee annually.</p>	<p>Cllr Deegan</p> <p>Cllr Deegan</p>
11	<p>To receive an update on maintenance and agree any future maintenance on:</p> <p>A) The Acres - the Clerk to ask JWH to ensure the pathways along the boardwalk and the entrance to the Boardwalk from the allotment car park are strimmed and the hedge along the allotment boundary is weeded.</p> <p>B) Play areas are regularly inspected and maintained by the Handyman. It was agreed that the basket ball area requires painting and the Clerk would obtain quotes for this. Cllr Willetts asked that the MUGA be inspected as water collects in the centre after heavy rain fall.</p> <p>C) Allotments – recently inspected. Abandoned plots would need strimming, the Clerk to inform JWH.</p> <p>D) Village Green – 2 benches had recently been erected on the green and tree maintenance carried out.</p> <p>E) Bus Stops – the Brookhouse Road bus stop had been repainted, re-glazed and steam cleaned.</p> <p>F) Benches and Notice Boards - a new bench had been put on Moreton</p>	<p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p>

	<p>green, benches in the Burial Ground would be re-varnished by the Handyman. It was noted that the Knightley Notice board needs varnishing, this would be added to Handyman's schedule.</p> <p>All areas would be inspected during a walk about scheduled for 12th June and maintenance work identified.</p>	Clerk
12	<p>To receive any correspondence received in relation to Open Spaces</p> <p>The Clerk informed members of an email from a resident in Norbury Close requesting the large maple tree in the Grosvenor Centre field be pruned as it is overshadowing much of his and his neighbour's back gardens. This was accepted and the Clerk would instruct JWH to carry out this work (tree maintenance work is included within Open spaces maintenance budget).</p> <p>Cllr Simkin had received a letter from an allotment tenant following termination of her allotment agreement because of an unauthorised fire. The tenant had requested the committee to reconsider the termination of the tenancy explaining that she had not realised the agreement had changed and that bonfires were not permitted without authorisation. The letter was read out. Given the tenant appeared to have inadvertently broken rules she potentially was unaware of, it was unanimously agree to accept her appeal and re-let the plot to her. The Clerk should respond to this effect and explain that these details would be kept on file and regular monitoring of allotment site would take place.</p>	<p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p>
13	<p>To confirm the time and date for the next meeting</p> <p>4th June – Fun weekend meeting 12th June – open space inspection 15th September 7.30pm – full open spaces meeting</p>	

The meeting closed at 9.35pm