

Gnosall Parish Council
Minutes of the Open Spaces Committee meeting
Held on 19th July 2016 at 7.30pm

Present: Cllr T Simkin (in the chair), Cllr Doug Webb, Cllr J Cook, Cllr M Deegan, Cllr J Tomkinson, Cllr S Green, Cllr C Emsley, Cllr R Greatrex, J Cooper

Press and Public Open Forum – none present

1	To receive apologies and record absences None received	
2	To receive any Declarations of Interest There were no declarations of interest	
3	To agree action to repair/replace the fire damaged boardwalk <p>Following a serious fire, as a result of arson, on 13th July, a large section of the boardwalk on The Acres Open Space had been destroyed, including a bench, dipping platform and hand rails. The Environment Agency had been on site for 3 days draining and refilling pool and had installing barriers to prevent contaminated water flowing down stream. The EA had given approval for the council to clear the surrounding area and continue with the repair work.</p> <p>A working party of volunteers and councillors had cleared the remains of the burnt boardwalk on 15th July. Councillors acknowledged their help and also the generosity of a local skip hire firm that had donated skips free of charge and other local businesses that had donated refreshments. It was also noted that the community had been deeply upset by this incident and many had offered their support - financial, time, materials and fundraising ideas. The incident would be reported in several local newspapers and local radio.</p> <p>The Parish Council's insurance schedule covers the entire section of the boardwalk for up to £44,896. Loss adjustors had visited the site following the fire and confirmed the damage is covered and had requested measurements of how much of the boardwalk had been destroyed as well as a copy of quotation to rebuild. Insurers had confirmed that it would only be necessary to obtain one quotation from the company that installed the boardwalk in 2012. However, the original company now only supply materials and do not install. Cllrs were informed that following investigations it is now possible to source materials that are more fire retardant than the materials used in 2012 however the price of materials had risen. The Clerk had details of several other contractors to contact.</p> <p>Action agreed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) A detailed specification of the repair work to be written including specific details of the area where the boardwalk was prone to sinking because of the depth of peat beneath. Contractors to be asked to advise on how a new boardwalk could be built to alleviate this issue – Cllr Deegan to action b) The burnt section to be measured – Cllr Greatrex to action c) Stafford Borough Council to be asked whether Section 106 funds could be used should there be a shortfall in the insurance payout. – Clerk to action d) Environment agency to be kept informed - Clerk/Cllr Deegan to action 	MD RG JC JC/MD

The meeting closed at 8.00pm