

ECCLESTON PARISH COUNCIL OPEN SPACES COMMITTEE

MINUTES of the meeting held on 27 Jul 2022 at Eccleston Community Hub, Drapers Avenue, Eccleston.

Present Cllrs M Miller (Chairman), D Bonney, M Frost, C Heath, D Miller and H Thomas.

Also present Cllr A Whittaker and 2 member of the public.

16.22 Apologies for Absence

None received.

17.22 Disclosure of Personal/Prejudicial Interests

None declared.

18.22 Minutes of the Meeting held on 26 May 2022

Resolved: the Minutes (as circulated) were approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

Resolved: Standing Orders were suspended.

19.22 Public Participation

The condition of The Hawthorns Play Area was raised. The path decals have not been applied in the locations on the plan and significant amounts of weeds are growing through the bark.

A resident mentioned the lack of a pavement along the entrance to the Millennium Green. A request is to be sent to Lancashire County Council.

Information was provided by the fundraising group on plans for the improvements to the Recreation Ground play area. A letter, designed to keep up momentum following the fundraising at the Jubilee event, had recently been distributed to residents. Councillors were a little concerned the letter contained details of items which the Committee was not aware of and that the Committee had not been provided with details of the three options from equipment companies. The potential costs are in the region of £200k and group is investigating the possibility of employing an outside company specialising in sourcing funding opportunities. It was queried whether Community Infrastructure Levy funds currently held by the parish council could be put towards the project. Members advised this had always been the intention once the plans had been finalised.

Resolved: Standing Orders were restored.

20.22 Hawthorns Play Area

The position of the graphics on the path are to be checked however Members were of the opinion that, provided they can be enjoyed by the young people, this would not be an issue.

Chorley Council Officers are to be asked to look into the issue with the weeds growing through.

Bushes along the boundary are to be cut to just below fence height.

A request to install a new bark surfaced strip along the boundary with no. 42 was considered. Quotations of £1085.31 (+VAT) had been submitted by the contractor responsible for the landscaping works and £225.00 by an alternative contractor. It was noted the area had always been grassed in the past, however given the amount, it was proposed the second quotation should be accepted.

Resolved: the works, costing £225.00, were approved.

The initial problem with the entrance used by the mowers being too small has now been resolved and a suggestion was put forward to install a lockable lift up post to prevent unauthorised entry. The litter bin requires attention and ownership is to be checked.

21.22 Millennium Green

A member of Lancashire Wildlife Trust had visited the site for a further inspection of the pond area prior to the meeting and is to provide specifications for improvements together with quotations.

Lancashire County Council had advised a decision regarding the proposed installation of the path to Eccleston Primary School would be made in September.

A suggestion for a fence along the line of the surface water drain to the rear of properties on The Green was put forward.

A design for a wrought iron surround to replace the Oak sign board at the entrance a design is to be sent to the Clerk.

Members discussed improvements to the block paved circle area. Suggestions included a large circular seat and concrete planters.

22.22 Updates

Entrance Sign and Planter at Heskin Bridge - Lancashire County Council Highways Officers have advised the proposed site is not part of the adopted highway. Enquiries to try to ascertain land ownership are to be made.

23.22 Projects for 2022-23

Proposals included a raised wooden planter over the tree stump on the verge at the entrance to The Hawthorns.

The cost of materials for the construction of the structure for the Garden of reflection on the Village Green is to be confirmed. This has been agreed as a Chorley Council Western Parishes Neighbourhood Project for 2022-23, with the Parish Council providing the materials.

Planting, including the Village Green beds and planters at the Church bridge and on the verge by Verdes is to be carried out by a contractor.

Additional works to the Recreation Ground were discussed. A suggestion to move the basketball hoop to the ball court was made, together with the provision of a covered shelter for young people. The Scouts will look into constructing a wooden shelter.

The bund on the eastern side on the football pitch was mentioned. Options put forward were to prepare the soil for wildflower planting or to level the area and redistribute the soil along the hedge line where ground levels are low.

The Bradley Lane pond remains in the ownership of the landowner until planning conditions relating to ecology have been satisfied.

Details of ownership of the New Street pond and open space area are to be looked into

There being no further business the Chairman declared the meeting closed.