

These are draft minutes and are subject to approval at the next meeting.



ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE
Minutes of the meeting at
8.00 p.m. on Wednesday 3 December 2014
in the Village Hall Committee Room

Present: *Councillors-* Anthony Sheppard (*Chairman*), Kate Hallett, Mark Sugden (*ex officio*)
 Co-opted Members-, Vanessa Relleen, Carol Manley
 Parish Clerk - Freda Collins

In the absence of the Chair, Cllr Sheppard chaired the meeting.

Helen Operto was present as a member of the public. She is interested in becoming a co-opted member and gave a brief introduction of herself. The Chairman thanked her for attending the meeting.

Cllr Sugden was not present at the start of the meeting.

1. Apologies for Absence

Cllr Mary Marshall with reason.
Cllr Geoff Herbert with reason.
Bill Chilcott
These were accepted.

2. Declarations of Interests

Cllr Sheppard declared that he employs the HGS contractor in a personal capacity.
Cllr Hallett declared that she is a Trustee of Claygate Village Hall Association and is Secretary to the CVA.
Vanessa Relleen declared that she is a Trustee of the CRGT, is on the Committee of Claygate in Bloom and the CVA.

3. Minutes of last meeting

The minutes of the 2 October 2014 were approved and signed by the Chairman.

4. Actioning of items from previous minutes

AP24 & 25 *The Clerk to contact Paul about HGS work-* done.
AP26 *The Clerk to contact Shaun Steer about the fountain refurbishment. Done (post meeting note: there has been a delay in the start of the work as the painter has been unwell)*
AP27-*Winner bed* agenda item
AP28 *SW Trains day of work at Claygate Station.* This went ahead and a great deal of work was done by the SW Trains employees and CIB members. SW Trains gave CIB money and plants.
AP29 *Derwent Close green* The Clerk has put together a file of evidence
AP30 *Christmas tree on the Green* Cllr Marshall obtained various quotes for the tree. The best value was from Andy, so he has supplied the tree this year.
All other action points have been carried out or are agenda items.

5. Litter, Graffiti & Fly-tipping

5.1 EBC launched their campaign about litter and dog waste and Cllr Marshall made sure Claygate was included this time. Posters are up at the recreation ground and the railway bridge in Claremont Road. There will be another campaign in the spring and again Claygate will be targeted.
Balloons were put up and free doggy doo bag containers were distributed to dog walkers. Leaflets were handed out and Cllr Marshall posted them along Foley Road as some gardens back onto the Rec. There have been complaints about some residents using the Rec as an extended back garden letting their dogs out to defecate on the Rec without picking up. There are many other areas that need attention as well. EBC sent a team to clean up the railway bridge after their visit.

6. Highway Garden Sites

It was noted that Paul has agreed to a new contract at a re-negotiated price.

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a. Inspection Arrangements

Applegarth

(CM, VR)

No report

Fee Farm Road/ The Causeway

(CM, KHa)

The new trees look healthy. The shrubs need to be pruned. Carol will organise a working party of the residents in the spring.

Torrington Lodge car park

(AS, BC)

No report

Coverts/Foley Roads triangle

(CM, VR)

The beds look reasonable for the time of year. Vanessa has taken cuttings of the sedum. Someone has erected an unofficial 'no dogs' sign at the back of the footpath.

Glebelands

(GH, MM)

This bed looks OK given the time of year.

It was noted that Cllr Marshall has done some work on this bed. Thanks were given by the meeting.

The Green

(VR, CM, GH)

This bed looks reasonable.

The clematis needs to be moved, but it was considered that the Glenavon bed would not be suitable as a relocation venue. It was suggested planting the clematis in The Parade bed and allowing it to grow up the Millennium Sign.

Post meeting note from Vanessa: The Clematis needs support so is not suited to the village sign. I favour putting it in the St Leonard's Road bed

Cllr Marshall queried why we spend £300+ every year on a Christmas tree. She suggested planting a tree on The Green and decorating it each year. She proposes that CPC purchase a tree (species to be discussed) and plant it where the Christmas tree is put each year.

This suggestion has been made previously and was rejected as a Christmas tree would look out of place in the summer. There is not a suitable native species, it would look too big in the summer and spoil the design. It was agreed to continue with the current arrangements.

St Leonards Road

(AS, KHa)

No report

Glenavon Close

(MM, GH)

Looks OK given the time of year.

Red Lane

(KHa, BC)

This bed looks really nice- someone has added extra planting.

Church Road

(GH, VR)

This looks fine for a shady bed.

Hare Lane car park

(AS, BC)

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This one of the potential projects. Work needs to be done to the west (right) side as the beds got trampled when the new house was built at the side of the car park. Pyranantha was suggested; plus Carol has some non-running (clumping) 1m high bright yellow bamboo which could be dug up from her garden. It was agreed that Carol & Vanessa would assess what is available immediately. If they can find something suitable they will inform members of the Committee. A budget of up to £250 was agreed for this work.

The Firs verge

(VR, KHa, GH)

The grass has been cut and the bed looks OK. It was agreed that since the Brownie garden was removed, the area looks rather empty. It was agreed that we could ask local groups to submit designs for small, temporary garden features and have one each year. This could be a Courier article.

Brick bed at The Parade

(VR, MM & CM)

This looks ok given the time of year. There is another poppy.

Vanessa has not yet bought the sedum to replace missing plants- she will action this.

Woodstock Triangle

(KHa, MM)

Improved-looks tidy. It was noted that the bed is often used to place signs to advertise local events.

b. Suggested Projects

The Fountain- the work was awarded to Shaun Steer, but no work has yet commenced. It was agreed to chase him on this matter.

Post meeting note: Shaun contacted the Clerk to inform her that no work had been done on the fountain as his regular decorator is not well. If the weather is suitable he will arrange for another decorator to carry out the painting.

Winner Bed- Cllr Marshall has a letter from Paragon giving permission to CPC to create a bed. Paragon has now agreed to trees and they said they will plant them at their cost. The tree stump has been ground out. Vanessa and Cllr Marshall have marked out the bed. Paul will remove the turf and the waste created for which there will be a cost of £100.

We may need top soil but will need to see what is underneath before we decide. Vanessa will test the area.

AP31 Vanessa to action

Post meeting note from Vanessa: The ground is variable at one fork's depth - a lot is good but some stony and a large tree root needs removing.

It was agreed that underground searches are required before any planting can take place. It is believed that Cllr Huddart has the searches for Coverts Road.

AP32 The Clerk to action

Before the position of the new bed is finally decided, it was agreed to wait for Paragon to plant the two new trees.

Cllr Marshall asked for £60 which will be required for bulbs, which we would like to plant as soon as the bed is created and £100 for plants in the spring. It was agreed to spend £60 on bulbs. The rest of the planting will be similar to that in the Coverts Road HGS. Vanessa can supply some of the plants. Depending what is found by the test, top soil may be needed; it was agreed to spend £100 on topsoil. The rest of the funding required to plant the bed will be discussed at the next meeting. If necessary, a bid to the money provided by the film company can be made.

It was noted that the bed will be regarded as an HGS bed and added to the list of beds maintained by CPC. This will need to be incorporated into the Environment Budget

Cllr Sugden arrived at the meeting.

7. Meadow Road Island

7.1 The picket fence has been erected.

7.2 There was a recent problem with the drains in Meadow Road and the cause was found to be the roots of the willow tree encroaching into the drains. Initially it was thought that the tree would have to be felled, but the problem has been solved by cutting back the roots encroaching into the drains. It was noted that the tree does not need a TPO as it has protection by being in a village green.

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8. Claygate Volunteer Groups

a. Green Team

Work has been carried out by Cllr Marshall and Vanessa as reported elsewhere in the minutes.

b. Claygate in Bloom

The tubs have been replanted for winter.

9. Village Greens

a. The Green- the application to register The Green as a village green is proceeding. The file of evidence is with the Chairman. He will need to take it to a solicitor

b. Derwent Close- the application to register Derwent Close green as a village green is proceeding. The file of evidence is with the Chairman. He will need to take it to a solicitor, probably at Elmbridge.

10. Courier/Website

Articles for the next edition:-

- i. something on the Winner site (depending on progress)
- ii. something about the new village greens (depending on progress)
- iii. A request for submission of designs for small temporary gardens to be placed on the Firs.
- iv. Clean Up day- it was agreed to ask the Scouts for their preferred date.

Post meeting note: Hugh Gosling reports that they have 18/4 in the Scouts outline programme. This date has been agreed by CPC Councillors.

AP33 The Clerk to action

11. Matters for information only

11.1 Another overflow occurred on Hare Lane green on the 23 Nov. Cllr Sheppard and Raleigh Drive residents have been in contact with the Environment Agency and Thames Water. Thames Water initially denied that the electrical equipment had failed again, but recently there were electrical engineers doing repairs to some equipment. A meeting is being arranged between Thames Water engineers and Raleigh Drive residents. It is believed that the tank and pumping equipment was installed in about 2005.

13.2 The Horse Crossing in Woodstock Lane South has run into a major problem because Kingston BC as Corporate Landlords will not agree to the crossing. They say that for 30 years they have been unaware that there has been a crossing on their land. Cllr Marshall is working hard to resolve the issues but unfortunately the crossing will not be built on 8th December. One of the issues is that it is not a legal ‘crossing’; it is merely a place where horses can safely stop prior to walking across the road. Cllrs Marshall and Bennison will meet with the Cabinet member for Highways in KBC.

Kingston BC would like someone to take responsibility for care and maintenance and suggested CPC. It is doubtful if CPC will agree as this would be a huge expense especially as it is not in Claygate.

13.3 Cllrs Marshall and Sheppard cleaned up part of the River Rythe in November. Cllr Marshall has contacted 6a Hare Lane and they are clearing a ditch that has some logs in it. They have not been able to do this before because it is in Crown Estate land adjacent to their yard but they now have permission. This ditch goes into the Rythe and may have caused some problems. 13.4 A member of Esher RA wants to apply to EBC for CIL funding in order to provide a footpath from Littleworth Road to the bus stop in Hare Lane. He has asked CPC for a letter of support. Cllr Sugden will meet with the gentleman to look at the proposal in more detail. It was noted that the preferred position for the footpath would be on the west side as a footpath on the east side will encroach on the green and will deliver pedestrians to a dangerous place to cross Hare Lane.

12. Date of next meeting

Next Meeting: **Thursday 8.00pm on the 5 Feb 2015 in the Committee Room**

.....Chairman.....Date

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