

Minutes of the **OPEN SPACES COMMITTEE** held at Pembury Parish Council offices on **Monday 19 December 2022** at 3pm.



Councillors Present:

Cllr P Gillan (Chair)
Cllr A Birch

Cllr C Snow (Vice-Chair)
Cllr J Webster

Absent:

Cllr K Brooks

Cllr M Weaver

Officers present:

Yvette Allen (Deputy Clerk)

- 22/305. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.** Apologies were received from Cllr Brooks and Weaver. The reasons given were accepted.
- 22/306. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.** There were no declarations of interest.
- 22/307. **MINUTES.** The minutes from the committee meeting held on Monday 10 October 2022 were approved and signed by the Chair as an accurate record.
- 22/308. **CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS.** There were none.
- 22/309. **CLERK'S REPORT.** The following report was **noted**:
- a. Skate Park. No progress has been made to date.
 - b. Climbing Frame. No progress has been made to date.
 - c. Lower Green Recreation Ground Perimeter Path. No progress has been made to date.
 - d. Lower Green Recreation Ground – equipment repair works. The contractor has replaced the playground gate. Parts for the single point swing and the adult gym skier are still awaited.
 - e. Publicising the table tennis tables. Scheduled to be added to the spring edition of the PVN.
 - f. Memorial Inspections. Liaison with other local councils was undertaken and they did in-house inspections.
 - g. Tree work following tree survey. Work had been split between the financial years and was scheduled in two phases. The first phase would be undertaken in the week commencing 20 February 2023.

- h. School visit to allotments. Year 5 children at the Pembury Primary School are working on a project called 'Sow, Grow and Farm' and have asked if they could visit the allotment site. An allotment tenant has agreed to give a talk. This is to take place early in the New Year.
- i. Budget wish lists. The following projects suggested by the Open Spaces Committee were included in the final budget for 2023/24:
- Additional tree budget £5,000
 - Replacement garage in Lower Green Recreation Ground £4,000
 - Replacement wet pour in the playground £5,000
 - Memorial inspections £1,400

The following project must be grant funded to enable them to go ahead:

- Fruit tree avenue £1,000
- Wildflower meadow seed sowing £300
- New noticeboard on the village green £2,000

The following projects were not included:

- Special tree budget – information with QR codes
- Buddy bench by tennis courts
- New floral display
- Replacement toilet and sink at the depot
- War Memorial paving refurbishment
- War Memorial clean

22/310. **OPEN SESSION.** There was none.

22/311. **ALLOTMENTS.**

- a. Feedback from the informal meeting with allotment tenants was considered and further research on the following to be carried out:
- Communal compost piles
 - Cost of machine to shred wood
 - Condition of plots when letting them

It was **RESOLVED** to display 'No loose dogs' posters around the site.

It was **RESOLVED** to add the issue of composting to the Climate & Environmental Action Working Group agenda.

- b. Following a request from an allotment tenant for more taps to be installed in the middle of the site, advice had been taken and a verbal quotation of £2,200 had been received. It was **RESOLVED** not to go ahead with this.

22/312. **TENNIS COURTS.**

- a. A report and quotes for an upgrade of the tennis courts were noted.
- b. The recommendation for timing of the works was noted.
- c. The request for tennis court lighting was noted.

It was **RESOLVED** to defer any decision until the next Open Spaces meeting in February 2023.

22/313. **NEW DOG WASTE BIN.**

- a. The update on the consultation with residents was noted.
- b. Following detailed discussions, it was **RESOLVED** not to go ahead with the installation of an additional dog bin in Henwood Green Road due to there being no acceptable location following consultations with local residents A post on social media and an article in the PVN explaining the amount of work that had been carried out to be written to inform residents about why this decision had been reached.
- c. The issue of whether to continue with paying for dog waste bins was raised and would go on a future agenda.

22/314. **DOGS ON LEADS.** A request for dogs to be kept on leads in the Recreation Ground had been received and it was acknowledged that whilst this was difficult to enforce, dog owners needed to be reminded regularly with posts on social media. It was **RESOLVED** to display additional signage/posters around the Recreation Ground during the school holidays.

22/315. **COMMEMORATIVE OAK TREE.**

- a. The date for the planting of the Oak tree to be Monday 16 January 2023. It would not be a public event but children from Pembury Primary School would be invited.
- b. Pembury Primary School had arranged a poetry competition about the oak tree with the winning entry having an extract put on a plaque to go at the base of the tree. Poems to be collected from the

school after 7 January 2023 for judging by members of the Open Spaces Committee.

- 22/316. **APPLE TREE AVENUE.** Advice had been taken from a local apple grower and Committee members were keen to have a site visit to discuss further. It was suggested that residents would be asked if they would like to sponsor a tree. A complete price per tree including a wooden tree protector and an individual plaque would be sought.

- 22/317. **WAR MEMORIAL.** It was noted that there was no money available in the budget for cleaning the War Memorial and it was **RESOLVED** to recommend to Full Council that any unused budget be vired towards this. A quote to be sought for the cost of cleaning and for the cost of painting the engraved names for future reference. This is to be discussed further at the next Open Spaces meeting.

- 22/318. **COMMUNITY GARDENING.** It was **RESOLVED** to approach local businesses about sponsorship of various areas to help with the cost of plants and flowers in return for a plaque. There was a discussion about the Camden planter which would be followed up.

- 22/319. **RISKS.** No new risks had been identified.

- 22/320. **QUESTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS OR AGENDA ITEMS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS.**

- 22/321. **MEETING DATES.** The next Open Spaces Committee meeting to be held on Monday 27 February 2023.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 5.04pm.

Signed: _____ Date: _____
Chairman