

Minutes from the HPC Environment committee meeting held on the 6th March 2008
at the HPC offices, New Road, Impington

1. Aps for abs. - Councillors Mason and Taylor. (present) Max Parish
2. Members dec of interest. – JE as allotment holder
3. Sign and approve.- Agreed
4. Matters arising.- Councillors were advised of the pest control report, the pump repair quote from SMS and the Home Close seat.
Alan Eade has spoken to the contractors, fitting the new wpb, about the railings around the manorial waste
A formal response had been made to Mr Garside regarding the Brook.
It was unclear if the draft letter to the RBL had been tidied and sent. All those at the meeting approved this letter and JE said he would ensure that it went out.
5. Trenching work.- The quote was noted and a decision deferred as there is only one quote. Max thought the cost exorbitant although there may be reasons for this.
All agreed that the idea of two breakers as per Mike Barrett's suggestion was a good idea.
It was agreed that we needed to ask Mike Mason about his meeting with the trees Officer from SCDC regarding issues such as depth of burying the cable and tree root issues. What did we ask for on the specification sheet? Is this why the quote is so high allowing for contingencies or difficulties with routing especially near to the bridge and the large trees?
6. Review of budgets. The meeting viewed the proposed budgets (Item 6 of Minutes 3 Dec 2007) and accepted them. There was some discussion about the proposed extra litter bin and its siting as the SCDC vehicles had to get close to empty them. The only likely options were at the end of Saffron Rd or the end of Home Close. It was unclear if there were funds available and this would be checked.
It was also considered that a litter bin would not solve the problem of rubbish thrown over the fence into the Council land further down the pathway. It was noted that some of this rubbish was not the sort that could go in a litter bin anyway. It was acknowledged that although Chivers did not own this part of the fenced off ground they occasionally arranged for it to be cleared of rubbish and this was appreciated.
Please could Angela write to SCDC about another bin near the dog bin at Home Close?
7. Play area.- Mike Barrett spoke about the difficulties finding someone to repair the old roundabout which, apart from being worn, was much appreciated by children and had been proved to be semi- vandal proof as it was very sturdy and heavy unlike modern equivalents. A verbal, draft quote of about £2k had been mentioned for the required work although it was appreciated that until the kit had been lifted up and inspected a true figure was difficult to assess. All present agreed that we should proceed on the basis of allowing a contingency sum on top of the £2k would be good and agreed that we should raise this at the main meeting on Monday 10th March for ratification. MB requested support from either/or Mike Mason/Fuff Munnelly to

ensure the specification sheet was correct and complete. There were H&S issues to consider for the remaining spigot while the roundabout was away being fixed. Funds were still available for starting the under 5's play equipment project and MB would initiate this. MB had nearly completed playground report for the full council.

8. Village green.- All the bookings were noted and agreed. It was felt a reminder to the Yesteryear run about not driving onto the Green might be a good idea. However if the bollards were in place they would not be able to drive on anyway.

All agreed that the WI seat should be replaced as and when depending on budget constraints.

The street furniture/ asset register was deferred until a survey had determined where they were and in what state they were in etc. All agreed that a photo survey might be a good idea and map locations recorded.

9. Trees and Allotments.- The quotes for the tree work by Richardsons starting on the 10th March, subject to SCDC approval, on the Green were noted and accepted. AE would keep an eye on the work as keeping people away was an H&S issue that needed attention (refer to PC risk assessment). All agreed that an annual fixed fee contract for tree work was not a good plan at this time as some years a lot of things were needed and other years there was very little to do. It was felt any spare funds were better in our account where they could be carried forward or used for other more pressing items.

All agreed to support the tree warden scheme. AY to send a letter confirming this.

The item about grant funding for the allotments was thought a good idea if we could get an application in in time. JE would have a look at the given web site to see what could be done.

Does Pene Nudds know if the probation team could clean up the Gate House Road road edge near to the allotments as lot of rubbish had accumulated there. The hedge had been cut back by the contractors for a local landowner which was appreciated.

10. Footpath and bridleways. As VT was not present there was no report apart from a verbal report that the new path to Girton was complete and was very good (Northstowe Rights of Way project). The members reviewed all the 'Countryside Matters' papers provided. It was noted that this project was now finished. AE asked if the path alongside the CGB still remained or had it been subsumed into the guideway maintenance track? We should ask as this was a designated bridleway and the sign at the level crossing still had not been replaced. There was some discussion about Guns Lane but it was agreed we could probably do little now although SCDC had done some work down here before and may be amenable to another request in due course.

11. Other Correspondence – It was agreed to try to get 'no dog fouling' signs put up in Mill Lane. (IPC need to be involved in this too). MM was aware and should be asked what the situation currently was as per Minute 14 of 3 Dec 2007. The issue of the hedge was noted and the various letters read out. It was agreed a letter to the owner of the hedge might be a good starting point although it was recognised that this could either create an issue or not actually solve the problem. However having read all the correspondence it was felt we should do something. A reply to the 'Felgates' should be sent advising them of this and possibly a article in the 'Crier' as previously discussed at the 3 Dec meeting. The Feast plans were noted and accepted.

12. Dates for future meetings were noted and agreed. Meeting closed at 21.20hrs.

DRAFT