

Impington Parish Council Environment Committee

Notes of Meeting, Wednesday 13th July 2005 8 p.m.

held at Parish Offices, New Road, Impington

Present: Cllrs P J Nudds (Chairman), D W Payne, T W Silk, G B Waters, D A Starling
CCC: Susannah O'Hanlon, Biodiversity Officer

Clerk: Mrs A Young

Pages: 2

Action By Clerk/Cllrs:

1. Apologies

All present

2. Election of Chairman

All agreed Cllr Nudds to be Chairman for coming year. Agreed suspend standing orders and bring forward part of item 8 to allow Susannah O'Hanlon to give advice on biodiversity management

8. (Part of) Bee Orchids at The Coppice

Herald Contract Services had not cut the grass and orchids now seeding. HCS to be asked to cut again in early August, leave cuttings. Cllr Nudds to organise working party to rake up and dispose of cuttings a few days later. No guarantee orchids will re-appear but this course of action would help chances.

PJN / Herald

Clay Close Lane amenity land. SO'H agreed this area may be a key opportunity for an environmental scheme. SO'H to visit site and provide general advice on improving the ground for wildflowers, either plug plants or seeds. Also to provide advice on grant funders. Discussion on need to cut early Spring, keep neat round edges during season and then cut all down in Autumn. Discussion on possible re-profiling of amenity land and planned clearance of ditch, via Chivers Farms staff **SO'H**
Maintenance and management of wooded areas Some advice on replacement programmes was required if a management plan to be drawn up. Noted many trees now getting big.

3. Matters Arising from meeting 15 March 2005

Orchard Up-date SO'H had contacted Mr Moore herself and would support any move to introduce an orchard to Histon/Impington. SO'H to approach County Farms on possibilities with land off Cottenham Road. Possibilities at Doctors Close play area discussed. SO'H had access to details of grants/trees available. SO'H left meeting. Standing orders re-instated **SO'H**

Walkabout date progress Date for September to be set. David Gilkes had looked at outstanding items and put orders in place for some work. Cllrs Nudds, Starling, Waters and Silk all willing to attend if date suitable. All Cllrs to be invited to advise Clerk of areas to be added to any walkabout list for inspection **All Councillors**

Grass Cutting contract Cllr Nudds outlined actions leading to quote acceptance and discussion with HCS re contract. She ideally felt residents should be sought to keep an eye on standards of cutting. Draft contract now prepared, to be emailed to all Committee members for comment back to PN, cc Clerk. Then to be signed. A list of problem areas to be attached to contract and sent to HCS, including strimming requirements, and The Coppice (see later item 8). Following discussion on poor state of verge outside recreation ground entrance, agreed to look at this once construction work at ground complete. **PJN / Clerk**

Tree Works at The Copse now complete. Cllr Nudds had inspected work, Clerk to contact John Helingsworth and the Woodland Trust for advice on management of wooded areas. No planting to be undertaken till plan in place

Oak Noticeboard at Library Church had taken ownership

Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005 details held on file

ROSPA Report South Road, as reported to Full Council, no action required

4. Homefield / Hereward Close Residents Meeting

Cllrs Payne and Nudds attended meeting representing the Parish Council, and reported on a useful session. Issues regarding signs, litter bins, Homefield Park, lighting, verge maintenance, nettles and dog fouling were raised with the Parish Council.

- Cllr Payne felt a definitive map showing the Council's ownership of Homefield Park would be useful and noted Rec Ground Management Committee were discussing all Homefield Park issues at their July meeting

- SCDC had been asked to make sure litter bin at The Dole emptied weekly
- Dog Warden would be asked to comment on Residents concerns re dog fouling
- Nettles had been cleared by Mr Smith
- Cllr Nudds had met Tony Hull of CCC Street Lighting to discuss lighting needs at the Dole. Some remedial work had been agreed. Following negotiation, CCC had agreed to provide a column (at cost of £2450) if Parish Council confirmed they had prioritised this position, due to route to school and recent indecent exposure incident, and confirm when trees in Home-field Park would be cut back at this boundary. Decision to be sought Full Council 18 July. Cllr Payne reported some 6-8 SCDC trees had been lost in the Hereward Close area due to honey fungus.

Full Council July 2005

5. Review of Dog Bins and Litter Bins

Agreed to defer to next meeting

6. 5 Year Plan

Copy of new draft plan provided. To be emailed to all for comment and consideration. Cllr Nudds to inspect Bus Shelter at Milton Road and report back next agenda **ALL Committee / PJN**

7. Clay Close Lane

Chivers Farms had confirmed intention to clear ditch and would provide Parish Council with quote for work on their area and that owned by Mr & Mrs Dean. Agreed to ask DG to chase Caroline Chivers

Dead Willow had been removed for safety reasons

8. The Coppice

Cllrs Waters and Nudds had visited residents of The Coppice one of which had concerns over her property and areas at The Coppice. Suggested working party be formed to clear the area of scrub behind garden wall, then add to HCS schedule for up-keep; Overhanging tree - no action proposed, but legal position to be clarified. Tree appeared healthy, only slightly overhanging and insurance was in place. Cllr Nudds to give details of addresses/sites where overhang problems and weeds existed for early report to DG for action **PJN**

Letter from resident of The Coppice detailed maintenance issues of concern including footpath blockage; weeds and overgrowth; trimming of overhang from Parish Council owned land; grass cutting schedules; overhang at The Crescent/Mill Road

HCS to be asked to:

- Maintain next to No 1 once cleared
- Follow programme for bee orchids as advised by SO'H

9. Doctors Close

Letter from neighbour confirming sewer had been repaired and would be made good

Advice awaited from SO'H on possibilities for grants and enhancement. No discussion on gate-post/verge damage till then.

Charity Commissioners Land agreed to write to Chivers Farms enquiring whether they may be prepared to release the Parish Council from the contents of the covenant on the gift to enable environmental/enrichments improvements to take place

10. South Road

Agreed grass cutting had now settled down and no additional cuts were necessary. Cllr Silk to inspect NIAB fencing to ensure safe. **TWS**

11. Correspondence

None

12. Any Other Business

Next meeting 6 September 2005. Bulb planting to be agenda item
Meeting closed 10 p.m.