

Properties & Projects Committee

Minutes of the Properties & Projects Committee meeting of Tuesday 23rd April 2024 held at the Centenary Hall, Smallfield

OPEN FORUM: No residents attended

Attendance: Committee Chairman Cllr Andrew Gilbert, Cllrs Bob Locke, Ashleigh Bolton, Alison Lewis, and Linda Herwig

- 1** Apologies received from Cllrs Bush, Dodman and Morris for reasons accepted by Council.
- 2** Declarations of interest – either personal or prejudicial on any agenda item: None
- 3** Dispensation: None required
- 4** The minutes of Tuesday 27th February 2024 were signed as a true record of the meeting
- 5** Matters arising from the minutes – The Clerk was asked to include ‘Community Engagement’ on the agenda going forwards
- 6** Playground Working Party update – Cllr Hale reported that the Rural Prosperity Fund will only match fund up to £50,000 and was unlikely to offer an ‘unmatched’ grant. Cllr Hale said she would begin to fill in the application form. Cllr Gilbert reported that EasyJet have not responded to his email but he has managed to find another email address to try. He also said they do not like their ‘colours’ being used in projects, preferring to stay in the background. Cllr Hale reported the Biffa grant scheme is now run by the woodland trust and that iCal has closed for application for this year. Cllr Locke opened a discussion on how Council budgets could offer ‘match’ funding
- 7** Men’s Shed – Cllr Gilbert reported he is going to apply for membership to the organisation as that will help with setting up a local group.
- 8** Duck House and Village Gates – Cllr Bolton reported that the duck house at the Redehall pond is still there but hidden in the bushes. She asked that Committee consider purchasing another. Cllr Bolton will look at costs. The Clerk was asked to check that Coinfords will not object to another house as they own the pond. They may even be willing to contribute to the cost. Cllrs Bolton and Locke will survey all the remaining gates and report back to Committee. One of the gates at Chapel road needs replacing as it was rotten and removed.
- 9** Update from Councillor areas of responsibility
Centenary Hall Cllr Bolton reported the raised bed still needs to be planted, She also mentioned the gutters are overflowing at times. Cllr Locke said he will check if they need cleaning.

C Hall drainage. The petrol interceptor has been drained/emptied and all drains are working well. The gutters are overwhelmed during heavy rain but that's a feature of having a large roof area.

Centenary Hall Gardening – Cllr Herwig reported that it is still too wet to do any work but is hoping to make a start next week. The spring flowers are now over but not yet ready to be cut back. Cllr Locke asked that the Caretaker rake over where the new tree was planted and sow grass seed. Cllr Herwig requested the Caretaker blow cut grass back onto the grass when mowing.

Keepers Corner Nature Garden – Cllr Bolton reported it is still in really good condition even though it has been 20/22 months since cut back. Some brambles need clearing away from where snowdrops grow and next time the path is cleared it could do with being a little wider. Some fence posts with the allotment site are rotten and need replacing and there are large potholes in the car park. The Clerk was asked to arrange for this work to be done. Some dead branches could also do with being cut back. It might be worth asking the company who do the autumn work at the Hall to give a price for the work. The kissing gate could also do with some clearing so it opens more easily. In the future Council will consider a sign advertising the nature garden to visitors.

New equipment – The Clerk is to collect the water bowser from Cllr Locke to see if it can be repaired.

Cllr Morris reported the school transfers to an academy as of 1st may. She is meeting the new Head, Mr Tree, tomorrow.

10 Items of an urgent nature None

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.pm. The next scheduled meeting is Tuesday 28th May 2024.

Signed Dated