

**Minutes of the meeting of the COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE held
in the Committee Room at Eskdale Community Centre
on Tuesday 12th September 2023 at 7.30pm**

PRESENT: Cllr B. Ezra, Cllr P Wood, Cllr D Field, Cllr D. Wilmer
Clerk: Mr Tony Skeggs
Assistant: Mr Peter Rayner
Absent: None
Residents: None

C23/60	APOLOGIES – Received and accepted from Cllr P Wood	
C23/61	OPEN FORUM FOR PARISHIONERS The issue of anti-social behaviour at the Eskdale Road playground was raised. The Parish Council acknowledged that they were aware and were considering what could be done.	
C23/62	DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATION None	
C23/63	MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING a) The minutes of the meeting of the Communities Committee held on the 11 th July-2023 were unanimously AGREED as a true record and were signed by the Chairman. b) The action plan was reviewed and would be updated accordingly.	
C23/64	GROUND MAINTENANCE CONTRACT It was AGREED that no changes needed to be made to the contents of the current contract.	
C23/65	PLAY AROUND THE PARISHES The play ranger sessions provided by Oxfordshire Play Association (OPA) were discussed and the following points raised: a) Parents who attended the Hawkslade sessions were pleased the Parish Council were running sessions somewhere other than Eskdale Park for the first time. b) Feedback received from those who had visited the sessions was that it did not cater for older children in the 4-11 year old advertised age group. c) We should survey parents via Facebook and the Pollyanna playgroup to ask whether they attended, what they thought of it and what they would like to see next year. d) We should write to OPA to report our opinion that they did not cater for the older children in the 4-11 year old age bracket that they advertised they were targeting.	Asst Clerk
C23/66	FALLEN SOLDIER Cllr Willmer proposed and it was unanimously AGREED that the fallen soldier silhouette will be installed approximately 1 month before Remembrance Day and removed the week after Remembrance Sunday.	Asst Clerk
C23/67	HEDGE TRIMMING It was AGREED the Parish Council would proactively write to residents where overgrown hedges were deemed to be causing an obstruction rather than wait for neighbours to complain.	Asst Clerk
C23/68	PATH AROUND ESKDALE PARK The Assistant Clerk reported that he had contacted 3 local structural engineers from those listed on the Institution of Structural Engineers website to see if they could inspect and report on the issues we are having with cracks on the tarmac path. Two had responded that paths were not in their area of expertise but one, Alexander Associates in Rickmansworth said they could help at a cost of £100 per hour. It was AGREED to engage Alexander Associates.	Asst Clerk

C23/69	<p>PARKING REVIEW</p> <p>a) The clerk summarised the report that had been provided to the committee. An alternative option of implementing permit parking rather than the parking restrictions in the proposal was discussed but the Clerk explained that Buckinghamshire Council would require near 100% agreement from residents which was unlikely to be achieved.</p> <p>b) The quote from Buckinghamshire council only covers the consultation and design phase but it is thought an approximate cost of the implementation was likely to be £10,000.</p> <p>c) It was AGREED to recommend to the Full Council that they approve £11,847.70 for the consultation and design phase.</p>	Clerk
C23/70	<p>MANDEVILLE PARK OPEN SPACES</p> <p>a) The Clerk summarised the report that had been provided to the committee. The next step in adopting the open spaces is for Bloor Homes to provide a plan for what they propose to hand over and then another site visit by the Parish Council.</p> <p>b) Cllr Field pointed out that the area around the playground has been waterlogged in the past and some of the tarmac looks like it is of inferior quality and this should be checked on the next site visit.</p> <p>c) It was AGREED to continue with the adoption process.</p>	Clerk
C23/71	<p>OUTDOOR CHESS TABLE</p> <p>There is a government scheme where funding is available for outdoor chess/draughts tables with seats. It was AGREED to investigate further and that if we do instal tables we should consider sites in Hawkslade, Stoke Grange and Stoke Leys.</p>	Clerk
C23/72	<p>DATE OF NEXT MEETING</p> <p>The next meeting date will be Tuesday 14-Nov-2023.</p>	

The meeting closed at 20:37.

Signed _____

Dated: 14-Nov-2023

Action List

Date	Minute	Description	By Whom	Status
12/05/22	C22/18	Work with Buckinghamshire Council to get yellow lines on corners in Hampden Road. Update 12-Sep, this is registered with Bucks Council but is low priority.	Clerk	In progress
11/01/23	C23/16	Organise a site visit to the village green to discuss positioning of street furniture, heritage board and war memorial. Update 12-Sep, War memorial no longer needs discussion. Proposal is to meet w/c 18-Sep	Asst Clerk	In progress
14/03/23	C23/17	Replace the footpath map on the Eskdale Road Community Centre but not until it is clear what the post HS2 situation is.	Asst Clerk	On hold
14/03/23	C23/21	Purchase and arrange installation of new noticeboards in the Roylands estate off Risborough Road and the Harbourne Estate opposite Mandeville Park. Update 12-Sep, new notice boards are on order.	Asst Clerk	In progress
14/03/23	C23/27	Follow up with the Belmore Centre and Bucks Council Winterton Drive site regarding supplying them with defibrillators. Update 12-Sep, Belmore defibrillator installed but no success in efforts to get a response from Winterton Drive property manager.	Asst Clerk	Closed
9/05/23	C23/37	Continue to work with Chiltern Railways and The Chiltern Society to rewild and tidy up the station approach green space. Update 12-Sep, lots of suckers have grown from one of the trees that was cut down so the plans need to be revisited.	Asst Clerk	In progress
11/07/23	C23/52	Purchase an additional bench for the tennis court. Update 12-Sep, new bench on order.	Asst Clerk	In progress
11/07/23	C23/54	Add discussion of the summer community event to the November Full Council meeting agenda	Clerk	
11/07/23	C23/55	Put in a bid to the Community Board Small Grant Fund to purchase some equipment	Clerk	In progress
12/09/23	C23/57	Survey parents regarding the play ranger sessions.	Asst Clerk	
12/09/23	C23/58	Write to Oxfordshire Play Association regarding play equipment not appropriate for 11 year olds.	Asst Clerk	
12/09/23	C23/59	Engage Alexander Associates to inspect the path around the playing field.	Asst Clerk	
12/09/23	C23/60	Follow up on government funding scheme for chess tables.	Clerk	