

**Minutes of the meeting of the COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE held
in the Committee Room at Eskdale Community Centre
on Tuesday 11th July 2023 at 7.30pm**

PRESENT: Cllr B. Ezra, Cllr P Wood, Cllr D Field, Cllr D. Wilmer
Clerk: Mr Tony Skeggs Absent: None
Assistant: Mr Peter Rayner Residents: 2

C23/44	Cllr Ezra was re-elected as chair of the committee.	
C23/45	APOLOGIES – None	
	<p>OPEN FORUM FOR PARISHIONERS</p> <p>a) A resident asked what was being done about the path around the playing field which had started to crack again. The Parish Council are aware and are in the process of taking advice about the best way to proceed.</p> <p>b) A resident asked about progress on a path between the Abbey Homes estate and the playing field. The Parish Council have struggled to get engagement from Abbey Homes but in the last week have got a new contact name so hope to now make progress.</p> <p>c) A resident thanked the Parish Council for clearing the footpath from the Hawthorns estate to Station Road past the church.</p>	
C23/46	DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATION None	
C23/47	MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING a) The minutes of the meeting of the Communities Committee held on the 9 th May-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.	
C23/48	NEW NOTICE BOARDS Crest Nicholson's property managers gave permission to install a new notice board at the Harbourne Estate opposite Mandeville Park however no response has been received from the developers responsible for the Roylands estate off Risborough Road. It was AGREED to go ahead and purchase new notice boards to match the existing ones and install them on both sites.	Asst Clerk
C23/49	RAILWAY STATION GREEN SPACE a) The Chiltern Society has confirmed their estimate for the work as £1570. The Parish Council has previously agreed to fund £500 of this. The Chiltern Society are providing labour so would rather not contribute funding and even if they did it would be £300 maximum. Chiltern Railways are hoping to fund the difference but the request falls in between their £250 station adoption scheme and their £5000+ community project scheme so we are awaiting their next budget meeting for a decision. b) There have been no positive responses to posters, social media requests or requests to gardening groups to adopt the area for ongoing maintenance once the initial work is done. If we do not identify anybody agree to this, the Parish Council may need to suggest to Chiltern Railways the work does not proceed. It was suggested that we approach people on the allotment waiting list and the organisation that arranges community service.	Asst Clerk

C23/50	HERITAGE BOARD It was AGREED to accept the quote of £1,114 from Whitehill and to order the board.	Asst Clerk
C23/51	BASKETBALL AREA & MUGA a) There was a discussion about whether to invest in a MUGA (Multi Use Games Area) which would comprise a basketball court and 5-a-side football pitch. It was decided that at this time we should not be making any major new investment at Eskdale Park while it was unclear what was happening in other parts of the parish such as the Bucks sports & social club site. b) There was concern about extending the existing basketball tarmac area given the cracking of tarmac we were experiencing on the path. c) It was AGREED to go back to the person who requested the second hoop to ask if it was usable without extending the tarmac area and it was, to proceed with ordering a second hoop having first checked whether there were different hoop requirements for wheelchair users.	Clerk
C23/52	PLAYGROUND & TENNIS COURTS a) It was AGREED to install a picnic bench on the playground paved area. b) It was AGREED to install an additional waste bin in the playground area. c) It was AGREED to install a bench seat next to the second tennis court.	Asst Clerk
C23/53	PLAYING FIELD a) Having increased the fee for the hire of the football pitch, the football club asked if the higher fee would include the Parish Council marking out the pitch. It was AGREED that the Parish Council did not want to take on that task and a discount would be offered if the football club would do it themselves. b) There was a discussion on whether to hire the pitch out to other occasional users but it was AGREED that we would not do this due to the difficulties of ensuring bookings did not clash with the football club's use.	Clerk
C23/54	COMMUNITY EVENTS a) The possibility of organising a Christmas Fair/Market event was discussed but it was thought this was something specialised for which we did not have the expertise within the council. Also, there was concern that we could not use the field in winter and would therefore not have space. It was therefore AGREED that the Parish Council will not organise a Christmas event. b) The possibility of an annual summer event was discussed and it was AGREED that this should go ahead on similar lines to the coronation event and the best time would probably be the late May bank holiday. It was AGREED to add an agenda item to the November full council meeting to kick off the planning.	Clerk
C23/55	TOOLS & SAFETY EQUIPMENT It was discussed that the clerk and assistant clerk were now carrying out more practical tasks around the parish such as hedge trimming and would benefit from having use of power tools and safety equipment owned by the Parish Council. It was AGREED to make a bid to the Community Board Small Grant Fund to purchase some equipment.	Clerk
C23/56	GROUNDS MAINTENANCE CONTRACT It was discussed that when the contract is up for renewal in April 2024 the current contractor might not want to renew the contract. It was suggested that they may be willing to continue with a smaller scope. It was AGREED to look at the scope of the contract and make proposals at the next communities committee meeting.	Clerk

C23/57	PARKING REVIEW The Clerk reported that the request for single and double yellow lines in Carters Ride/ Dorchester Close/ Walnut Close is with Buckinghamshire Council for costing. It is expected to be around £20,000-£25,000.	Clerk
C23/58	DORMOUSE BOXES The Asst Clerk reported that a resident had contacted the Parish Council about providing dormouse boxes having seen a dormouse and a footprint tunnel near one of the footpaths in the parish. Further investigation is required to determine what the Parish Council can do to help.	Asst Clerk
C23/59	DATE OF NEXT MEETING The next meeting date will be Tuesday 12-Sep-2023.	

The meeting closed at 21:05.

Signed _____

Dated: 12-Sep-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 11-Jul, this is registered with Bucks Council but is low priority.	Clerk	In progress
11/01/23	C23/16	Prior to the next communities committee meeting, organise a site visit to the village green to discuss positioning of street furniture, heritage board and war memorial. Update 11-Jul, to be done once Bucks Council work on layby is complete which should be during the summer school holiday.	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 7-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 11-Jul, Belmore defibrillator installed. Winterton Drive awaiting response from property manager.	Asst Clerk	In progress
14/03/23	C23/27	Arrange for purchase and installation of a solar powered defibrillator cabinet and defibrillator on Dalesford Road. Update 11-July, cabinet and defibrillator delivered. Waiting for contractor to install concrete base.	Asst Clerk	Complete
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 7-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
9/05/23	C23/38	Order Heritage board.	Asst Clerk	Complete
11/07/23	C23/51	Ask resident who requested a second basketball hoop whether it is viable if we do not extend playing area. Update 7-Sep, resident withdrew request.	Clerk	Complete
11/07/23	C23/52	Purchase a picnic bench for the playground	Asst Clerk	Complete
11/07/23	C23/52	Purchase an additional waste bin for the playground. Update 7-Sep, moved under used one from by the skate park instead.	Asst Clerk	Complete
11/07/23	C23/52	Purchase an additional bench for the tennis court. Update 7-Sep, new bench on order.	Asst Clerk	In progress
11/07/23	C23/53	Offer the football club a discount if they mark out the football pitch. Update 7-Sep, football club accepted offer.	Clerk	Complete
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	Asst Clerk	
11/07/23	C23/56	Review the ground maintenance contract and make proposals for taking some items out.	Clerk	
11/07/23	C23/58	Follow up on dormouse boxes, Update 7-Sep, resident still trying to establish whether there are actually dormice present. No further action for PC at this time.	Asst Clerk	Complete