

## 2014 - SHEET NO. 43

Minutes of Meeting of Tackley Parish Council held on 6<sup>th</sup> October 2014 at 7.00 p.m in Tackley Village Hall

### **Present:**

Councillor June Collier (Chairman)

Councillor Paul Joslin (Vice Chairman)

Councillors Les Summers, Robin Gibbons, John Cook, Elizabeth Marshall, Neil Wilson

District Councillor Charles Cottrell-Dormer

### **14/089 – APOLOGIES**

None

### **14/090 – PLAY AREA UPDATE**

Mark Hilton gave a brief explanation of the issues relating to overlooking of properties at the rear of the play area caused by the zip wire platform and the mound. He was accompanied by three residents who live nearby and have concerns about overlooking and noise from the new play area.

Further to earlier discussions, the Play Area Committee had agreed that they would install a screen and raise the safety rail around zip wire platform. With regard to Issue two - overlooking from mound - there are two solutions for consideration.

Option 1: Erection of a screen, comprising hazel hurdles mounted above the existing post + wire boundary fence, independently supported and set to 2.7m high. Mark Hilton circulated copies of a computer image to those present. This would be favoured by residents. The approx. cost of this provision is estimated at £1000. plus VAT.

Option 2 Planting of trees : It was felt that 8 trees would provide an effective screen planted within the playground along the boundary. The trees would be specimen chianti clear pear. Councillor June Collier was concerned about on-going maintenance and reminded the meeting that trees had just been removed due to this very problem. Would this create a potential problem in 10-15 years and create access issues for the allotments ?

Councillor Paul Joslin asked “what was the life expectancy of the panelling”? Mark Hilton thought 15 years if lucky. Mark Hilton advised that the native hedge pack for the playground was provided by the Woodland Trust free of charge and they have indicated that they would do this again, which could provide a green screen in the future. Councillor June Collier asked where the Committee considering doing both? She was informed that potentially yes. Total cost for hedge if needed to be purchased £200.

Councillor John Cook asked if the requirement for planning permission for the fence had been investigated. This had been looked into under terms of permitted development and would not attract planning consent. Councillor John Cook considered that if this was the case it would be an

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exemption to the 2m rule which would still require consultation with the Planning Officer. To be investigated by the Play Area Committee. Councillor John Cook also had reservations regarding the proposal for a natural hedge extending to 2.7m+ which would require considerable maintenance and he considered that fewer trees would create an adequate screen.

The Playground Committee agreed the issue needs to be resolved but are aware of potential cost and also concerned that as the playground is still young and covered by warranties on-going costs where not known. They do not have the money to pay for this outright. They would be able to fund a portion of the cost if the Parish Council would meet the balance, some councillors were concerned that the expense should not come from the PC purse.

Councillor June Collier was concerned that tree and hedge planting would create a dark alley behind the boundary fence of the play area and suggested that the residents erect a trellis type fence along the top of their boundary. Parishioners at the properties affected felt that the installation of fencing on their boundaries was not an option as it would overshadow their gardens.

There was general agreement by Councillors that if any extra screening were needed then the tree planting solution was preferred.

Councillor June Collier invited parishioners present to offer their views and opinions. There was concern regarding the cost and who would pay. It was also strongly expressed that those residents raising the problem would have been aware of the playground when purchasing/building their properties. It was further pointed out that the Playground Committee had held widespread consultations during their planning period. There was also reference to those items of equipment which had previously existed (slide and climbing frame) and which were higher than the current features. It was also pointed out that, in part, the pattern of usage had changed since the new playground was opened but the overlooking had probably been overstated. There was also an opinion that public consultations should be held so everyone in the village could have a chance to comment.

District Councillor Charles Cottrell-Dormer asked if a fence would actually help and was told that it would.

It was resolved that Mark Hinton should prepare detail planting proposals/costs. Councillor June Collier felt that the Parish Council were not in a position to say whether they were happy to pay for the work until costs were known.

### **14/091 – MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 8<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2014**

It was proposed by Councillor John Cook that these be accepted as a true record of the meeting held on 8<sup>th</sup> September 2014. Seconded by Councillor Robin Gibbons. All in favour.

### **14/092 – DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None

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### 14/093 – MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES

- County Councillor Ian Hudspeth still investigating the issue of sewage at the school. Councillor June Collier has spoken to him again requesting feedback.
- Hedges and footpath walkabout: invitation still not received from the County Council. Councillor Les Summers to provide Clerk addresses of offending properties where foliage is overhanging the footway and causing an obstruction so that these can be forwarded to the Highway Authority
- Ditch at the school boundary: Councillor June Collier has spoken to the County Council regarding this and was hoping for a response in time for tonight's meeting.
- Defibrillator has been acquired and Parish Council to decide where it is to be situated. The entrance to the Village Hall a possibility. Parishioners will need to be involved in its use and would be offered training. Mrs Chambers has offered to help as she is the village "first responder". It is hoped that it will be installed before the next meeting.
- Street light switch off information now with the County Council. Awaiting timescale.
- Redevelopment proposals Hopcroft Holt. An extension to the existing garage and shop. District Councillor Charles Cottrell-Dormer informed the Council that the application was approved today.
- Trimming of trees in Chaundy – completed. Test on ash tree on-going and Councillor John Cook still needs to establish where all trees are for the annual survey.

Meeting 7<sup>th</sup> July – Councillor John Cook queried the accounts as presented and had spoken to the auditor. It was felt by the Council that this should be left for a future meeting

Councillor Liz Marshall reported that the sign by the memorial tree had been fixed by her husband.

### 14/094 – DISTRICT COUNCIL MATTERS

The Clerk had reported the road signs but has not heard anything back from the District Council. District Councillor Charles Cottrell-Dormer was asked to chase this up. Councillor John Cook raised the issue of parking on the verges at Sturdy's Castle Garage.

Councillor John Cook asked if the Green Burial Ground developers had permission for the buildings on site. The original application indicated that buildings would be the subject of a further application. The District Councillor informed that Council that there would not be any buildings on site permanently. Councillor John Cook informed him that the original application had a green shelter and ancillary buildings.

Councillor June Collier asked if plans for the children's Care Home had been discussed at the WODC planning meeting today. She was informed that the application was under further discussions and may come back as a different application.

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### 14/095 – PLANNING APPLICATIONS

14/1291/P/FP – 42 Rousham Road – Councillor Paul Joslin asked the applicant why a three bed annex was being applied for. He was informed this is to keep it context with that erected next door. Councillor John Cook reminded Councillors that the Council had objected to the neighbour's application which was approved and on that basis WODC could not reasonably refuse this application. Therefore there are no adverse comments regarding the proposed annex.

14/1333/P/FP – 41 St Johns Road

Councillor John Cook had contacted the District Council as he was unclear as to why planning permission had to be applied for. He had been informed by the planning officer that permission was probably not required as it was permitted development, but the agent for the owner has not requested that it be considered as such and therefore the application will be considered in the normal way. No adverse comments.

Clerk reported that the planning application for 33 Lower Hades had been granted (14/1200/P/FP).

### 14/096 – PARISH MATTERS

Village Hall Trustees – Councillor June Collier explained that there had always been 2 trustees and these had for many years been members of the Parish Council. Richard Banbury is now the only surviving trustee and wanted to hand over to some younger trustees. The documentation needs to be found and 2 possibly 3 trustees need to be appointed. As owners of the land the Council need to have a representative as a trustee. Councillor Robin Gibbons asked if trustees have to be from the Council or wider community. This was currently not clear. Councillor Les Summers asked if this matter had been discussed with the Village Hall Committee. Councillor June Collier stated that at this time no-one other than Councillors had been consulted. It was decided to place this item back on the agenda for the next meeting once the historical documents had been consulted.

Councillor June Collier had received a request from Scout Committee to use playing field for a community firework event. Skyline promotions would be appointed to run the event on behalf of Scouts. The turf would be removed to the area of the bonfire and subsequently be reinstated. Neighbours would be informed and site clean-up work will be carried out by the Scouts, supervised by a scout parent who is a professional grounds man. The question of insurance was raised and the Council were informed that Skyline would provide insurance cover and a copy would be made available to the Council. Scouts are looking into whether they have indemnity insurance. Councillor Paul Joslin felt we the Council needed all this information prior to giving a decision. Councillor Les Summer was not sure it was a good idea bringing it into a built up area and would not be able to support the request. The Scouts Committee stated that the fire officer had been to visit the site and the area has been surveyed in his opinion ample space was available and the area suitable for the event. Councillor Elizabeth Marshal wondered about the state of the grass after the event if it was very wet. Councillor June Collier advised that the public attending would have to be kept on the edge of the field and if the weather was wet on the car-park, the football pitch must not be damaged as it was now in regular use by a team from Woodstock. . The issue of parking was raised

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if it were wet and the spectators used the car park. Councillor Collier suggested that Tackley Estates be approached

regarding stand by car parking. The Scout leaders should speak with Fiona Colonise and Mr and Mrs. Banbury prior to event, as they are the owners of the two thatched houses in Tackley. Councillor Robin Gibbons asked if the firework display would be an early evening event to enable children to attend and whether alcohol would be available. Both queries were confirmed. Councillor June Collier asked that a vote be taken. All Councillors apart from Councillor Les Summers were in favour of letting the Scouts use the venue. Permission was granted on the proviso that insurance and safety assurances were provided.

Councillor Neil Wilson had been in conversation with OST Technology who supply speed devises. The device would not be in a permanent position but could be moved around the village. He asked if the Council wish him to carry on investigating these devises as the cost was in the region of £2,500 Councillor Collier suggested we could rent it out to other villages? All councillors were in favour of Councillor Neil Wilson pursuing.

Councillor Elizabeth Marshall stated that the metal work around the all-weather court was becoming rusty and it is looking tatty. She will investigate the cost of undertaking the remedial work.

Councillor June Collier had sent a notice around the village regarding a hangout shelter for teenagers and keep fit circuit. Response so far has been positive. She was given approval by Councillors to pursue this matter.

### 14/097 – MATTERS OF FINANCE

101407	HMRC - PAYE	140.38
101408	Green Scythe	947.15
101409	Clerks Wages X2	387.28
101410	OCC Allotment Rent	50.00
101411	Tackley PCC	300.00

Councillor John Cook proposed ratification of payment. Seconded by Councillor Elizabeth Marshall. All in favour.

Councillor John Cooked stated that, if the December Council meeting was to set the precept, a meeting before was required to run through finance and clear up various items before a figure can be set. It was agreed that a meeting be held on Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> November at 6.45 p.m to discuss the issue.

The Clerk reported that the 2013/14 Audit had been signed off by the External Auditor.

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**14/098 – ANY OTHER MATTERS**

Work to the notice boards: Councillor Paul Joslin informed the council the estimate that had been accepted previously was no longer relevant as the company are too busy to undertake work. He would seek further estimates.

Councillor Neil Wilson suggested the need for the erection of a kissing gate along the Old Man Leys footpath . There is a possibility that funds could be grant funded but the landowners would be asked to install at their expense.

**14/099 – MATTERS FROM THE FLOOR**

Sewage - Councillor June Collier informed the meeting that the Council are working with Thames Water and OCC significant progress has been made. The adequacy of the pumping station is being investigated and re-lining work has been carried out to the sewer in the playing field. A parishioner pointed out that although the playing field ditch had been cleaned out, where it goes along the rear of St Johns Road there is a pipe and water will be held back. Councillor Neil Wilson explained that it is a combination of circumstances and these are being examined to try to resolve the issue. On the subject of new development with -in the village Thames Water cannot refuse to connect properties to their system but should advise the developers of the current problems in the village.

It would help the Council greatly if individuals wrote independently to Thames Water regarding the problems of internal flooding and sewage. Notices have previously been posted through various sources asking Parishioners to do this.

Meeting closed 9.00 p.m.

Signed .....

Date .....