



**Open Spaces Committee**  
**Minutes of Meeting**  
held on Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> November 2021 at 10.00am at  
Prestwood Community Centre, Nairdwood Lane, Prestwood

**Public Forum:**

None.

**Present:** Councillor K Pither, Chair  
Councillors: Hewett, Bunting, J Brooke, S Humphreys, I Lovegrove, V Marshall,  
R Pusey, T Stevenson

**Also present:** Jane Hennessy – clerk, Tracy Georgiades – deputy clerk

**1. Apologies:** Cllrs C Baxter, Ormesher

**2. Declarations of Interest:**

None.

**3. Minutes** The minutes of the meeting held on **24<sup>th</sup> August 2021** and approved at the August full council meeting, will be signed as a correct record.

**4. Matters arising**

- The best kept allotment presentation evening had been run successfully prior to the November council meeting.
- Following the lifting of restrictions by Bucks Council, bonfires were now allowed on allotment sites.
- An offer of a lease to manage a parcel of land near the Link Road, Great Missenden, has been received. It had been agreed that this would be more appropriately discussed by all at the December parish council meeting.
- Bucks Council have agreed all the locations of the Woodland Trust trees and are going to arrange for some of the areas to be cleared of vegetation. Confirmation of this is awaited.
- The two benches to be donated by the Prestwood WI's for Prestwood Recreation ground have been accepted by Bucks Council as the owners of the land, with provisos, suggested locations are awaited from the WI.
- Some graffiti behind the Community Centre and a crack in one of the panels has been reported to Country & City Construction for advice and contact from them is awaited.
- Sexton have been asked to provide a quote to repair the gate access to Chequers Lane allotments, via the public footpath.

**5. Allotments**

a) Occupancy

The update on allotment occupancy and waiting lists was noted. There are six outstanding rental payments for this year and the deputy clerk is chasing these up and continues to try and fill the allotment vacancies. Ballinger and Chequers Lane have the most vacancies. It was discussed that the clerks have the authority to split up allotments to half/garden plots as and when required.

Following the November council meeting the tenant of Nairdwood Lane 10B has been given until 3<sup>rd</sup> December to move and reduce the size of the polytunnel, dismantle the

remaining structures around the shed and the outstanding 2021/22 rent. Otherwise the tenancy will be considered terminated. A letter was hand delivered.

The request for a community allotment was raised by Cllr Bunting, it was thought that Ballinger would not be an appropriate site for this. Cllr Bunting will put together a proposal for this to be progressed.

The budget update was noted.

b) Allotment liaison meetings

The deputy clerk was in negotiations with both Ballinger and Chequers Lane to confirm replacement allotment liaison officers. Once this is completed two meetings will be arranged for 2022.

c) Weedkiller

Cllr Pither advised that a meeting will be arranged for January to discuss and progress the weed killing policy by the parish council.

d) Nairdwood Lane – Request from resident to remove rubbish

Cllr Pither confirmed that she & Cllr Baxter had met with the tenant of 7B who was requesting that the council remove 'hazardous waste' from his allotment. The waste includes the remains of a greenhouse, glass and metal. The tenant, has held the allotment since 2007, has only just recently requested this help. It was agreed that the parish council does not have a policy of clearing rubbish from occupied allotments and this should be communicated to all tenants, perhaps by email.

However, should the tenancy of allotment 10B be terminated (see item a) above), then a skip will be required to clear this unoccupied allotment. Once this is known then a decision can be made as to whether to offer use of the skip also to 7B and other tenants.

e) Allotment Tenancy Agreement - Addendum

It was agreed to ask full council to approve an addendum to the allotment tenancy agreement which states that all allotment tenants accept the condition of the plot on signing the tenancy agreement and agree to remove items not acceptable under the terms and conditions of the tenancy agreement.

f) Spurlands End Road hedge – request from adjacent resident

The committee discussed the request from the resident adjacent to the allotments for any budget or help from the parish council with the planting of hawthorn along the hedge line which the resident has cleared as his own expense. Cllr Hewett suggested that there may be some hedging held by the Missenden Walled Garden that had been donated by HS2. It was agreed that Cllr Hewett should investigate and report back to the full council meeting.

g) Skips - update

Skips have been provided to allotment holders over the summer at Greenlands Lane, Nairdwood Lane and Chequers Lane. Spurlands End Road did not feel that they required a skip and Ballinger is still outstanding. It was agreed that this could be organised in March.

h) Allotment boundary – Chequers Lane – access to allotments via archway

Cllr Pither requested that the plot holders of 10A are contacted to see if they still require access directly onto their plot via the path at the back of their house. This was granted by the council some years ago to make the plot more accessible, due to illness. Cllr Pither is concerned that this access is allowing people to cut through the allotments. It was agreed to send a letter to the allotment tenant to see if this access was still required.

i) Allotment boundary – Spurlands End Road

Pictures were shown of what appears to be boundary encroachment from one of the houses that borders Spurlands End Road allotments. This house has a gate that directly accesses the allotments and has recently removed the existing hedge/fence and replaced it

with new planting. It appears that this new planting is one metre further into the allotment land. The clerk was requested to draft a letter to the resident for full council approval.

j) Greenlands Lane/Kiln Common – vegetation – future management

Following agreement by full council the vegetation on Kiln Common that was growing up an adjacent residents fence has now been cleared. The resident has written thanking the council but also asking what the future management of this area is. It was agreed to write to the resident advising that the council would manage the vegetation growth along the border, as with any other parish owned land, commensurate with their obligations. In the case of Greenlands Lane the parish council has an obligation as a leaseholder of the land. The parish council also manages its land in line with an adopted biodiversity policy. The resident is welcome to contact the parish council should any further problems arise.

## **6. Play Areas**

a) Update on playground repairs

All repairs raised as moderate in the annual playground inspection report have been completed. This leaves only low risk or very low risk findings.

The Buryfield skate park half pipe repairs have now been completed by Lightmain. The budget update was noted.

The Gryms Dyke wetpour resurfacing order has been placed with Playground Facilities. It is hoped that this will be completed in the early part of next year.

b) Sibleys Rise – request for additional equipment

A request from county Cllr Jane McBean has been received reporting a request from residents for improvements to the play area at Sibleys Rise. There is currently only one piece of equipment, a swing, at this location. It has been suggested that funding may be available from the Community Board and an informal consultation of the neighbourhood has been started, by way of a survey. An update will be provided for the full council meeting.

## **7. Open Spaces**

a) Annual tree survey

MacIntyre Trees continue with the annual tree survey including digital mapping of all parish trees and it is hoped that it will be complete by the end of the year.

b) Scout Hut - request

A request has been received from the Prestwood Scouts for support to replace the scout hut at Nairdwood Lane with a similar but new timber building. After discussion it was agreed to add this to the December full council meeting, to perhaps form a working party to look at the options.

c) Ramp/step from Link Road to Buryfield

Cllr Pither confirmed that she would be meeting with Cllr Brooke to progress this project.

d) Prestwood Common – Astro surfacing

Cllr Pither proposed that quotes are sought to replace the Astro surfacing at Prestwood Common as it was in a poor condition.

e) Prestwood Community Centre - Parking

The parking at the community centre was discussed. All hirers of the Community Centre have been reminded to close the barrier after they leave and also never to leave the padlock on the barrier with the combination not scrambled. It was proposed that the barrier was left open for six months to allow everyone access to parking. This proposal did not receive a majority vote.

f) Open Spaces Contract - update

Cllr Pither reported that six tenders have been received for the Open Spaces contract for 2022-25. Cllrs Humphreys, Hewett, Bunting, Lovegrove, Pusey and Pither volunteered to help with the reviewing of the tenders. It was also suggested that Cllr Johnstone should be invited in his capacity as chair of the Finance Committee. A date will be circulated for the meeting to make a recommendation to full council at the December meeting.

**8. Cemetery - Update**

The committee noted the update. Bucks Council are still not allowing burial plots to be reserved, whilst the planning process progresses. A recent meeting has been held at the cemetery with David Stowe from Bucks Council and the clerk and the deputy clerk. It was advised that for any burials (excluding those of cremated remains) the plots will need to be inspected when dug for correct shoring up. David Stowe, Bucks Council will confirm the procedure. A new cemetery manager for Bucks Council has been employed.

**9. Phase 2 of Prestwood Common regeneration**

Bucks Council have advised that they will not be able to transfer the freehold of Prestwood Recreation ground to the parish council. However options for the leasehold would be considered. The parish council need to start the process again, with an expression of interest request for the leasehold.

Cllr Pither suggested that it may be prudent to start consulting with local groups in the meantime, even if it is limited to Prestwood Common at this stage.

**12. Any Other Business**

- The clerk advised that no invoices have been received from The Misbourne School for mowing of the parcel of parish owned land. The clerk was asked to chase this up.

**12. Date of Next Meeting**

To be advised – Jan/Feb 2022

The meeting closed at 12.05pm.