

DRAFT SUBJECT TO APPROVAL OF MAIN COUNCIL ON 6th FEBRUARY 2018.

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
ALLOTMENTS & OPEN SPACES COMMITTEE
HELD AT FELPHAM COMMUNITY HALL FELPHAM
22nd JANUARY 2018**

PRESENT: Councillors: G Blampied, Mrs G Moss & Mrs J Wild.
P English arrived at the meeting during discussion on the
St Michael's Allotment Site agenda item.

Councillor G Matthews was also in attendance, as a substitute for Councillor
D Smart.

Glenn Powell - St Michael's Allotment Site representative.

Steve Alderton – Tree Warden.

A 103. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

Apologies had been received from Councillor D Smart.

A 104. ABSENCE WITHOUT APOLOGIES:

There were no absences without apology.

A 105. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:

There were no declarations of interest at the outset of the meeting.

A 106. QUESTION TIME:

There were no members of the public present and therefore no questions or
issues raised.

A 107. CORRESPONDENCE/ANNOUNCEMENTS:

(i) **Millstone Landscapes** – had written to confirm that work in Drygrounds
Lane would be carried out during January 2018.

(ii) **ADC** – Oliver Handson had written to the Council confirming that ADC
would be withdrawing the Snook's Corner toilets on the basis that the
Culver Road facility would remain open all the year round.

There was no other correspondence to report.

A 108. TO RECEIVE THE MINUTES OF THE ALLOTMENTS & OPEN SPACES COMMITTEE MEETING 18th DECEMBER 2017:

These minutes were agreed as a true and accurate record. These had already been ratified by Main Council at its meeting of 9th January 2018.

A 109. MATTERS ARISING:

There were no other matters arising, that had not already been reported to Main Council on 9th January 2017.

The Clerk had been requested to contact the County Councillor with regards to WSCC making the footpath, to the east of Tesco's store on Felpham Way, a designated footpath. This he had done and had received the following response:

“The footpath in question whilst not part of the publicly maintainable highway, is served by a public footpath (PROW). Therefore it receives only very limited maintenance as identified when inspected annually by a PROW volunteer. In general this includes ensuring the path remains passable and dealing with any significant defects that would pose a real risk to members of the public using it.

It is likely that any obstructive vegetation emanates from private land either side of the path and therefore it would be a case of making contact with the private owners and requesting clearance.

If there are specific concerns currently, I will pass the matter onto our PROW team for consideration and appropriate action.

For clarity, the path is not owned by WSCC but the fact a PROW exists over it does mean we have limited responsibility around access and safety”.

A copy of this response had been sent to all Councillors on 18th January 2018.

A 110. AGENDA ITEMS FOR THE NEXT JWAAC MEETING (27th February 2018):

There were no proposals at this time.

A 111. FELPHAM ALLOTMENTS AND GARDENS SOCIETY REPORT:

There was no representative of FAGS in attendance and therefore no report received.

A 112. ST MICHAEL'S ALLOTMENT SITE REPORT:

(i) Report from FVCS Representative (Glenn Powell):

“We have done quite a lot of work at St Michael's since the last meeting. The plots identified as vacant have been strimmed and cleared. These are 11, 18,20 and 27. They have also been edged to give them definition. They are now very lettable. If they are still vacant into the springtime we will systemic weed kill in the spring and cover with black plastic as discussed.

We also have cleared the very overgrown brambles on the vacant back plot numbers 16 and 17 and will now prune the fig trees or they won't fruit next year. In our opinion these plots are not lettable as they are so close to the back and overshadowed by trees. However we could use the combined 16/17 space it as a grassed orchard area and would like to plant a few more fruit trees for communal use. If agreed we will look out for suitable specimens.

The unlettable plot number 21 under the larger trees is now a good grass area albeit with a lot of digger ruts that need filling.

We understand you will now reclaim plot number 28 as it has not been worked at all since your last warning and is again a complete mess. This plot is an odd shape and already contains some flowering shrubs. Once cleared this could be returned to grass and it would be our intention to plant more flowering shrubs to encourage bees and other pollinators.

We also have started to clear the back area along the ditch so that it is accessible and can be mowed properly. We have decided to use the bramble cuttings and other vegetation to create a dead hedge along this stretch. This will encourage impenetrable growth and add to security as well as tidiness. The intention is to clear the whole of this back boundary and give it the same dead hedge treatment. Rather than using metal fencing as discussed at the last meeting we believe this more natural solution would be better. However, to achieve this we need some more wooden tree stakes similar to those already in position along part of the stretch. We propose the Parish Council should purchase 50 of these at a total cost of £130. The Conservation Society has already donated 50 mixed hedging trees which will be used for the more vulnerable corner area. We could do with 50 more of this hedging at a cost of around £77. I have copied the tree wardens who could help with this planting.

The previous digger work left a lot of ruts over the whole allotment site both on the track and on some of the vacant plots. These need filling so we

have arranged with a local tree surgeon, Ian Stevens of IP stumps, to deliver some loads of wood chippings free of charge. We have started with the track but we will need a lot of chippings to level off the back area and the affected plots. The areas we have filled in to date are already showing signs of grass recovery so we are encouraged by this.

The pathways and communal areas will soon be all opened up and accessible. We will cut back the grass and trim the edges ready for the grass cutting contractor to maintain at a good standard throughout the summer.

Our next task will be to create about five more plots along the Felpham Way hedge. This area is currently thick with brambles. These will replace the four plots that have been returned to communal use. We will start brush cutting soon before the brambles get any higher. The bramble cuttings will be used for the dead hedge work. We will then systemic weed kill in the spring and cover in black plastic until let. We will leave a good pathway along the hedge and return this to grass to enable the annual hedge cutting contractor to gain access”.

After discussion, the following was unanimously RESOLVED, and to be presented to Main Council:

- **That the Council purchase 50 wooden tree stakes at a cost of £130.00.**
- **That the Council purchase 50 mixed hedging trees at a cost of approximately £77.00.**
- **That plots 16 & 17 be utilized as a grassed orchard area.**
- **That plot 28 be made into an area for flowering shrubs , and that the current plot holder be advised accordingly (the holder had been written to as a result of his plot being unkempt) and that the Council would be taking back the plot as per the conditions within the contract between the plot holder and the Council.**

Glen further reported, to the meeting, that he had obtained, free of charge, Heras fencing from the developers of the building site over the road from the site. He was congratulated on his achievement in doing this. He also advised that there would be monthly working parties on the site and that an open day was proposed for the 19th May for the public to have a look round the site.

- (ii) **Specification for Grass Cutting of the site:** the Clerk confirmed that the tender documentation had gone to three interested parties with a closing date of tender being 23rd February 2018. **It was agreed that the tenders be opened by the Clerk, and in consultation with the Chairman of this Committee (delegated powers for this were agreed), the preferred contractor be determined.**

A 113. FACILITIES CONDITION REPORT:

Drygrounds Lane – annual maintenance work due during January 2018.

Planters – continue to be maintained to a good standard.

Binsted Avenue pond area – nothing new to report.

The Clerk reported that the Grassmere Parade area continues to be in a neat and tidy condition.

A 114. IMPROVEMENTS TO STREET SCENE AND OPEN SPACES REVIEW.

(a) Work In Progress.

<i>Item</i>	<i>Current status</i>	<i>Action</i>
<i>Allotments general</i>	<i>Press for additional allotment sites in north of Parish.</i>	<i>Liaise with ADC as and when possible sites are identified. This is perceived as a long term proposal and possible unlikely to occur.</i>
<i>Binsted Pond area</i>	<i>Potential encroachment by builders</i>	<i>Extend hedge</i>
<i>Further Allotment Sites</i>	<i>Identification and approach to landowners etc with regard to area earmarked for school on Site 6 proposal and land above Downview school</i>	<i>Currently WSCC are carrying out the process for inviting proposals/interest for a new school.</i>
<i>King George V Playing Fields</i>	<i>Management Plan prepared by ADC</i>	<i>Management Plan for 2014-2024 received by Council.</i>
<i>Longbrook Park</i>	<i>General improvements and possible vegetated shingle project.</i>	<i>Management Plan for 2012-2022 received by Council.</i>
<i>Fisherman's Gardens & The Lobster Pot Area</i>	<i>All in a state of good repair</i>	<i>Ongoing</i>

A 115. LONGBROOK PARK & KING GEORGE V UPDATES:

- (i) **King George V** – Neil O'Connor had reported that he had nothing new to report.

(ii) Longbrook Park - Carl Smith of ADC reported that the park had just had its winter maintenance carried out.

Andy Camp (Snook's Corner Group) had reported the following:

“As you can imagine, with the bad weather over the past few weeks there has been little activity other than our monthly litter pick along the greensward on Sea Road and also through Longbrook Park, which took place on Sunday 7th January. As well as encountering the usual empty cans and bottles, used tissues, the occasional disposable nappy (which were all bagged and left for collection by the Council) and the presence of the odd bit of dog muck here and there (which we sprayed orange or pink) we collected a fire extinguisher and a roll of bedding.

Hopefully, weather permitting next month, we will do some coppicing on the Rife bank. We may also be seeing some signs of the crocuses that we planted in November too!

On the subject of dog mess, my wife and I also took part in FVCS' litter pick along the Sea front last Saturday. I'm sorry to say that the problem is getting worse, despite the new wardens, notices and stenciled pictures on the promenade”.

A 116. TREES: REPORT BY TREE WARDEN:

Steve Alderton reported that the three trees that had been taken out in Blake's Road by WSCC, because of their poor condition, had now been replaced with new Whitebeam trees.

A 117. MATTERS OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE – PREVIOUSLY AGREED WITH THE CHAIRMAN:

There were no matters of urgent public importance.

A 118. DATE OF NEXT MEETING: 19th February 2018.

The meeting closed at 6.57 p.m.

Approved.....

Date.....

