

RUDDINGTON PARISH COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Amenities Committee meeting**

Held at St Peter's Rooms on Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> May 2012 at 7.30 p.m.

**Membership**

A	W A Wood	Chairman
	Mrs B Breakwell	Vice-Chairman
	D J Hall	
	P F McGowan	
A	K S Piggott	
	Mrs M Robinson	
	Mrs B M Venes	
	M Walsh	
A	Mrs R Wilson	

Persons absent are marked 'A'

Persons representing the Parish Council on other business are marked 'O'

Also in Attendance

G D Long	Clerk to the Council
R Shelbourn	Senior Groundsman
1 member of the public	

**In the absence of the Chairman the Vice-Chairman took the Chair.**

The Vice-Chairman welcomed Councillor Mrs M Robinson as a new member of the Amenities Committee.

Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors K S Piggott and W A Wood.

Declaration of Member's Interests

Councillor Mrs B. M. Venes declared an interest in any item relating to the allotments and Vicarage Lane Cemetery. Councillor M. Walsh declared an interest in any item relating to the allotments.

Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 27<sup>th</sup> March 2012, having previously been circulated, were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

## Matters Arising from the Minutes

### Parish Council Staging (Vide Minute A. 12/949)

The Clerk reported that the staging had been disposed of to the Golf Club, who had agreed it could be borrowed back if needed. The Parochial Church Council had been approached to see if the Parish Council could borrow their staging if necessary; however they do not own any staging.

Members noted this information.

### Tree at rear of Village Hall (Vide Minute A. 12/953)

Councillor P F McGowan asked if the Sycamore tree had been removed yet. The Clerk reported that three quotes had now been obtained and that the tree would be removed soon.

Members noted this information.

## A. 12/958 Motion for Adjournment

### RESOLVED

That the Committee adjourn to allow the members of the public present to make statements on agenda items.

During the adjournment Mr D Hollingworth reported that, at a recent event, there had been a charge for parking on Elms Park and that the deeds state that charges cannot be made for entry to the park. Councillor P F McGowan said that he felt that anyone charging for parking should obtain permission from the Parish Council first. The Clerk confirmed that permission had not been obtained and said he would check the deeds and take appropriate action.

GDL

## Committee in Session

### A. 12/959 Development

#### New Applications

There were no planning applications to consider.

### A. 12/960 Reinstatement of the Green (Vide minute A. 11/918)

The Clerk reminded members that it had been agreed that the Senior Groundsman would report back to the May meeting of Amenities Committee on the state of the re-instatement. The Senior Groundsman reported that the re-instatement is satisfactory.

Members noted this information.

#### A. 12/961 Allotment Competition

A report on arrangements for the Allotments Competition 2012 had previously been circulated. Members were reminded that all allotment gardens within the Parish are automatically entered into this competition unless they request otherwise.

#### RESOLVED

1. That the judging takes place starting at 6.30 p.m. on 10<sup>th</sup> July. This date may be subject to alteration if the judge advises the Clerk that changes in the growing season make this advisable. GDL
2. That awards are made as per the judge's recommendations. GDL
3. That prizes are awarded as follows:

£50.00	First Prize and the Thorncroft Trophy	
£25.00	Second Prize	
£15.00	Third Prize	GDL
£10.00	Fourth Prize	
4. That the Council, in accordance with its powers under Section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972, should incur the following expenditure which in the opinion of the Council is in the interests of the area or its inhabitants and will benefit them commensurate with this expenditure: GDL
  - a. Prize Money £100.00
  - b. Judge's Fee £30.00GDL
5. That the current year's winner is requested to stand down from entering next year's competition. GDL
6. That the awards are presented at a presentation evening at St. Peter's Rooms on Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> October at a joint event with the Garden Competition. GDL

#### A. 12/962 Badminton Club

Copies of correspondence from the Ruddington Badminton Club requesting a retrospective refund on payments because of the worn white lines had previously been circulated.

Members were reminded that the lines were last renewed four years ago and are being renewed this August.

After discussion members agreed that, whilst the Parish Council endeavoured to provide the best possible facilities, organisations rented them 'as seen' and that it was inappropriate to grant retrospective refunds because the facilities did not meet the expectations of users.

RESOLVED:

That the Badminton Club is informed that no refund will be granted on this occasion.

GDL

A. 12/963 Raised Bed – Garden of Rest, Vicarage Lane Cemetery.

A report on the condition of the raised bed in the Garden of Rest at Vicarage Lane Cemetery had previously been circulated. A number of complaints had been received, including one at a recent surgery. Due to the design the bed requires a high level of maintenance.

Members agreed that action should be taken. The Senior Groundsman recommended that the shrubs should be removed and replaced with a landscaped scheme. A membrane should be put in, with slate or gravel chippings, a raised plinth in the centre and boulders, duck eggs and some low growing planting around the edges.

RESOLVED

1. That the raised bed in the Garden of Rest should be renewed as recommended by the Senior Groundsman, and
2. That a letter be sent to the person who raised the issue at the surgery explaining what was planned.

RS

GDL

A. 12/964 Trees Vicarage Lane Cemetery

Correspondence regarding a request to reduce the height of the leylandii hedge in Vicarage Lane Cemetery had previously been circulated to members.

Councillor D J Hall suggested considering removing it completely, however the Senior Groundsman pointed out that this would expose an untidy corner of the Cemetery and recommended that a reduction was the most appropriate option. It was agreed that this is the preferred option, subject to a comparison of costs. The Clerk reported that a reduction could be achieved 'in house' but complete removal would need to be undertaken by outside contractors.

RESOLVED

That the leylandii hedge in Vicarage Lane Cemetery be reduced in height subject to it being as cheap as removal.

RS

A. 12/965 Trees Vicarage Lane Play area

Correspondence regarding a request to reduce the height of the evergreen trees at the rear of 8 Peacock Close in Vicarage Lane Play Area had previously been circulated to members.

The Senior Groundsman recommended that the most appropriate option in this case was to remove them completely. The house behind already has a high fence and so it was felt this would not cause them a problem. This was agreed.

RESOLVED

That the evergreen trees at the rear of 8 Peacock Close in Vicarage Lane Play Area be removed.

RS

A. 12/966 War Memorial (Vide Minute A. 11/920)

A report on updating members on progress on the LIS bid to clean and restore the War Memorial had previously been circulated.

The Clerk informed members that the project has been approved and is in the programme for 2012/13. The application from St. Peter's Church for work in the churchyard has also been approved.

Members noted this information.

A. 12/967 Village Hall (Vide Minute A. 12/950 and F. 11/1090)

A number of areas of work required at the Village Hall had previously been highlighted as necessary. The Clerk reported that the work on the wet rot had been completed, the quotes for removal of the Sycamore tree had been obtained and that this would take place soon, and that two quotes had been received for provision of disabled facilities and a third was expected soon.

Members noted this information.

A. 12/968 Memorial, St. Peter's Churchyard (Vide Minute A 12/944)

The Parish Council had previously agreed to undertake the restoration of a number of memorials in St. Peter's Churchyard. The Clerk reported that the Parochial Church Council were in the process of obtaining a faculty, and that he was getting an updated quote for the work.

Members noted this information.

A. 12/969 Future Plans for Amenities Committee (Vide Minute A. 11/932)

Councillor Mrs B Breakwell reported that the working group have not yet met as they are awaiting the outcome of the survey of village amenities being undertaken in June as this will have a significant impact on the future plans.

Members noted this information.

A. 12/970 Elms Park Play Area Phase 3 – Multi-Use Games Area  
(Vide Minute A. 11/940)

A report from Councillor Mrs B Breakwell had previously been circulated to members. Councillor Mrs B Breakwell introduced the report outlining that £27.500 funding is available from the LIS for the development of a Multi-Use Games Area (MUGA). This is planned for the old tennis courts on Elms Park, an area much in need of improvement. Quotes for a number of options have been obtained. However, the money available is not sufficient and additional sources of funding are being sought. Specifically, an expression of interest has been submitted to Rushcliffe Borough Council. Also, a number of issues were raised during the consultation.

An extensive discussion followed regarding sources of possible funding and the impact that bidding now may have on future, possibly considerably larger, bids. It was felt important that bids should be submitted for the Parish Council's most important projects. Members agreed that any further bids should only be undertaken after the results of the survey on village amenities were known.

One issue raised was the loss of car parking if the MUGA goes ahead. Councillor D J Hall suggested that consideration should be given to having car parking alongside the cycle path between the path and the road on the Carter Playing Field. It was agreed that a quote should be obtained for this.

RESOLVED

1. That no further bids should be submitted until the results of the survey of village amenities are known, and
2. That a quote should be obtained for providing car parking alongside the cycle path between the path and the road on the Carter Playing Field.

BB

RS

A. 12/971 Reports on Amenities Matters

Glass Jar – Vicarage Lane Cemetery

Councillor Mrs B. M. Venes reported that there was a glass jar on a gravestone at the Vicarage Lane Cemetery which she considered could easily become dangerous. The Clerk agreed to follow this up.

GDL

A brief discussion on issues of health and safety, items in front of headstones and the impact on maintenance of the Cemetery followed. It was agreed that this needed to be discussed more fully at a future meeting.

### Elder Tree on the Green

At the Parish Council surgery on 14<sup>th</sup> April Mr D Hollingworth reported that an elder tree on the Green needed cutting back. The Clerk reported that this had been done.

### Elms Park litter

At the Parish Council surgery on 14<sup>th</sup> April Mr D Hollingworth and Councillor Mrs M Pell reported issues of litter on Elms Park. The Clerk reported that the groundstaff had installed some new litter bins and that the situation would be kept under review.

### Damaged Building - Sellor's Playing Field

The Clerk reported that the building on Sellor's Playing Field was damaged. In the short term this would be repaired however, full consideration needed to be given to the future of this building at a future meeting.

### Elms Park – New Bench

The Clerk reported that a bench which had been in storage for some time had now been re-sited on Elms Park by the groundstaff. A member of the public had thanked the Parish Council Office for this.

### Ruddington Colts – small sided competition (Vide minute A. 12/952)

The Clerk reported that the Ruddington Colts had asked that their thanks for the free use of Parish Council facilities for a small sided competition be passed on.

### Churchill Open Space (Vide minute A. 12/930)

The Clerk reported that a letter of thanks had been received following the cutting back of the willow trees on the Churchill Open Space.

### Police Point

The Clerk reported that a letter from Nottinghamshire Police had been received agreeing to the conditions proposed by the Parish Council with only one issue for further discussion. He anticipated that agreement for the Beat Manager and PCSO to use the IT Room at St. Peter's Rooms would soon be reached.

A. 12/972 Items for inclusion on the next Amenities agenda

1. St. Peter's Churchyard
2. Village Hall
3. Elms Park Play Area Phase 3 – Multi-Use Games Area
4. Future plans for the Amenities Committee
5. Vicarage Lane Cemetery
6. Building on Sellar's Playing Field

The meeting closed at 9.27 p.m.

Chairman

Committee Chairman