

## Chair's report 18<sup>th</sup> June 2021

This report contains a number of items that require feedback. If we were meeting face to face a show of hands would be the way of voting, as is normal. But we're not so it's important that you take notice of these items and respond. The response date is Monday June 28<sup>th</sup> because our original plan was to meet on Thursday (June 24<sup>th</sup>) and you would have needed to be familiar with the documents and prepared to comment/vote by then. This gives you an extra three days including another weekend. I trust this meets with everyone's approval.

**Agenda/update** – is attached. It is presumed that all councillors will read all the papers sent to them and respond as necessary. For this reason, some items normally on an agenda have been removed eg verbal updates. If you have anything you need to report please email Nicky.

**Planning applications** – Nick's summary of current applications and his recommendation for each is attached. Questions if necessary back to Nick please with objection or not back to Nicky with copy to Nick, Ruth and myself in good time before the required date. No response will be taken as agreement with Nick's recommendation.

**Finance** – see RFO report. Also agreement required to transfer £20,000 to the Lloyds current account, from which our bills are paid, leaving £20,000 in the deposit account. This will bring the current account to £35,000.

**Recreation ground** – the banks are full of wild flowers, including a bee orchid, so SCS has been asked to leave uncut for now.

Cold Ash young football team is using the ground regularly; people often comment how good it is to see the ground put to this use.

The new fence has been cut through behind the first bench so now needs repairing. Ruth is dealing with this. An annoyingly unnecessary extra cost.

Attached is a proposal for allowing the recreation ground to be hired out for a fun weekend.

Questions/responses to me please by Monday June 28<sup>th</sup>. No response will be taken as agreement to the proposal.

**Furze Hill** – the meadow is full of wild flowers and well worth a walk through. Providing the rain hasn't beaten everything down, pictures will be taken for Facebook. Many thanks to Ruth for her constant work and for leading the WBCV in creating and maintaining this site.

**Pinewood Park** – after all the bother and expense of getting edging strips for one item of play equipment, its now been removed again. CCTV has been looked at but the (young) children in the park weren't able to be recognised.

**Defibrillators** – the defib outside the school was used over the last bank holiday weekend. Carolyn has seen to replacing the pads, as required after use, and to keeping a set in hand. Carolyn is considering the viability of more first aid/defibrillator training. A proposal will be circulated if it seems feasible.

**Internal audit and AGAR** – you will see from Nicky's report that these have been completed successfully. Nicky was congratulated by the auditor for supplying the information speedily and accurately. Well done Nicky. Once agreed by all and signed, the AGAR will go onto the closed notice boards and be published on the web site as required.

**Financial Working Party** – Tom has agreed to take on chairmanship of this. A meeting was held, notes attached.

**Neighbourhood Development Plan** – currently looking for a consultant to help decide the way forward.

**Co-op store** – is open now as you will all know and is lighting up the dark sky after closing time of 10pm. Complaints have been made; Ruth is staying on top of this and Garth is liaising with planning on our behalf. Also, delivery vehicles parking on the kerb side has caused a problem. It's against a planning condition and Garth is following this up too.

**Councillors' roles** – attached is the chart of roles and duties as it was and also a new one dated this month. Please look at the new one and let me know if you no longer wish to take on the designated responsibility or if there's something you would rather do. Likewise if there is something not listed. Please respond by Monday June 28<sup>th</sup>. No response will indicate that you have agreed to take on whatever is listed for you.

**Road side** – David has followed up the complaint made to WBC about the broken kerb. Apparently the inspector is being informed but, to my knowledge, nothing has actually happened yet.

**Financial Regulations** – comments from those who responded have been taken on board and the slightly amended document is attached for final approval. No objection is taken as agreement.

**Standing Orders** – after taking various views and advice, including from HALC, the Standing Orders have been changed slightly though the method of the annual appointment of Chair and Vice Chair remains the same.

**Hermitage Green** – a brief was sent to a number of solicitors to quote for dealing with the transfer documents. Three have responded which is sufficient to make a decision. The proposal is to go with Gardener Leader where HPC legal documents are held. Should their existing workload prove to be a problem, HALC is the second choice. Please approve this proposal so we can move this on. Full details of submissions attached.

<b>Solicitor</b>	<b>Charge + vat and disbursements</b>	
Gardener Leader	£800 - 1,000	Ruth understands, from a GL conveyancer, that the firm is having to turn away. Don't know if this in that category.
HALC	£1,000	
Coffin Mew	£1,2000 – 1,800	

**Berkshire Youth** – is planning an event for young people to have their say. The link was put on to the village Facebook page but of course, there is no way of knowing if anyone responded.

**Long Lane bus shelter** – requires some upkeep work which a member of the Thursday team may be able to complete.

**Waste/dog bins** – if you notice a bin overflowing, please report it to WBC. Easily done on the web site through Report a Problem or calling (01635) 551111.