

Assets and Amenities Committee meeting
Monday 31st July 2023 at 7pm in the Meeting Room of Lympstone Village Hall

Committee Members Present: Cllrs Akins, Hill and Staddon

Councillors Present by Invitation: Culhane, Lewis and Francis

Members Of Public: 4

(Plus one before meeting convened who established an agenda item did not refer to the tree on her boundary and left)

Public Session: Mr and Mrs Richardson stated they were there to observe how the Council operated and did not want to say anything at that time.

AAC 23/35 Apologies: Clerk to the Council, Councillors Linfoot, Minter and Payne

AAC 23/36 Minutes: Councillor Atkins stated:

- Minutes of last meeting to be agreed at Committee level then taken to next full PC meeting.
- The existing Committee members and structure of each committee remains in place until new ones agreed at next full council meeting (September) therefore only the 3 Councillors who are members on the current list may vote. This number does form a quorum. Invited other Councillors can participate in full discussion but may not vote at this time.

AAC 23/37 Use of Candy's Field and Cliff Field by LFC:

- Mr Fradley explained the small goal posts were returning to Cliff Field as of today once permission given.
- The larger goal posts previously stored there were remaining at the Marine Camp.
- The smaller goal posts normally stored on Candy's Field behind the Pre-school were remaining there and Mr Fradley would assist with maintaining/clearing nettles etc.
- The agreement between LFC and LPC is being redrawn and Mr Fradley will supply dates for this season so this can be finalised.
- The youngest teams that had used Candy's Field may still do so occasionally but in order to have routine and certainty of venue and to maintain harmony over car parking etc. they would mainly use the alternative venues that had been found and were working quite well. If Candy's Field is needed a week's notice will be given and the pitch will continue to be marked out.
- The storage unit on Cliff Field with LPC's permission for access will be refurbished by LFC
- Mr Fradley requested an on-site meeting at Cliff Field to discuss storage and the installation of a better and more secure solution for the goal posts. It is proposed the soil heap will be removed creating sufficient level space for the goals to be pushed back and secured clear of path for storage without causing significant problem to hedging/trees.

Action: Date to meet Mr Fradley to be arranged – ideally within the next two weeks as Mr Fradley has leave time and would suit the beginning of the season.

AAC 23/38 Lympstone Cemetery:

- The tenders/estimates for the path replacement were opened - Halcon Landscapes quoted just under £10,000 for all work. Using existing soil and adding topsoil for seeding. Paths would be 1.1m wide all pavers will be taken up and removed. They would be replaced with a brushed concrete path similar to the one in Front Meadow. RBL quoted £12,000 for all work. The third quote was not available as the contractor who had been contacted was currently on holiday.
- The tree on the eastern boundary of the cemetery is clearly touching the house that adjoins the cemetery. Some branches are touching the end wall of the house making it green and taking light from the property.
RECOMMENDATION: to remove all or some of tree to solve problem
- The tree on the western boundary adjoining Mr and Mrs Richardson's house. This tree is healthy and has had recent work to cut away overhanging branches. This tree was planted in memory of a Lympstone resident whose widow is still living. At the time of planting the houses in Jackson Meadow did not exist and it was hoped the cemetery could be extended into that ground – this obviously did not happen. Until Mrs Neeson passes there are limited options Cllr Lewis preference would be to reassign memorial status in the parish and recommends following EDDC advice for tree management on their website and taking advice from one of the arboricultural team. Mr and Mrs Richardson stated they would be happy to make a contribution to the cost if the tree was relocated or replaced.
- The gap in the hedge which had been used as a cut through seems to have been closed by the erection of a new fence that goes almost the length of that section of boundary.
- Where the fence ends a possible access point remains. There is an open ongoing question concerning the tree in that corner where part of it overhangs a neighbouring property. Could the holly be trimmed and remain in situ as a 'bush'?

Action: Cllr Lewis to look at give an opinion and seek advice from EDDC regarding all trees in cemetery and Lupton's boundaries

- Grave levelling – some stones are leaning; these are not dangerous but could be lifted and leveled by adding more soil. This would improve the scene and CIL money could be used for this purpose. CIL money now has its own account and central government are encouraging 5 year plans to be in place. This work could form part of a 5 year plan.

AAC 23/39 Candy's Field

- Cllr Atkins concerned the splitting in the wood of the playpark is increasing and reaffirmed his dissatisfaction with quality of workmanship. Cllr Staddon agreed the equipment was not weathering well. The

- Playpark has only been opened for a year and it is showing signs of poor wear. Suggestion of gauges fixed across splits to monitor the rate of acceleration

Action: Clerk to contact Eibe raising concern over rate of 'weathering'. Photo records to be kept to illustrate issues and safety concerns.

- No replies have been received to the advert asking for applications for a safety 'inspector' to regularly monitor the play equipment. Inspections would be visual but must be carried out by a qualified trained person following Eibe Maintenance Plan

Action: Advert to be reissued by Clerk

- Lime and Cherry trees adjacent to tennis courts. The tennis club has asked for work to be carried out to stop fruit/leaves etc from the trees falling on the courts and causing a health and safety risk. Any overhanging branches could be removed by LVH management committee themselves. However, a longer-term solution is needed for the trees which are very closely spaced and in addition also some other trees on Candy's Field need to be reviewed.

Action: Cllr Lewis to meet with Alistair Jeans from EDDC to discuss a long term maintenance plan for these trees.

AAC23/40 Village Hall Car Park:

- Historically the Village Hall and its land passed from PC management to a CIO (Charitable Incorporated Organisation). Some terms were agreed at the time but these have now expired.
- New formal terms and conditions are needed for the reasonable (dawn to dusk) agreed right of access to the cemetery across the carpark and use of car park for maintenance, burial parties and those visiting the graves of loved ones.
- Any agreement will set out ground rules to achieve this and should be of benefit to both parties.
- Payment will be asked to contribute to the maintenance of the LVH carpark in return for usage. The PC believe this should be calculated by a usage %. Cll Hill is working on a draft proposal.

Action: Cllr Hill to prepare an agreement to bring to full council with suggested contribution based on % usage

AAC 23/41 Review of Maintenance Contract and Applicable work to certain Specialists

- While council is extremely satisfied with the standard and work of current contractor the council must show fair and open competition by periodically re-advertising contract.
- Adverts appeared in Herald and on Lympstone .org but there have been no replies of interest as yet.

- Cllr Atkins suggested a rolling program to repair/repaint/replace if necessary (eg bench on The Green) the seating benches throughout the village. The work could be a phased rolling programme of so many per year. Cllr Atkins believes the Woodbury PC handyman may be interested in this. Costs for the work need to be built into the budget.

Action: Cllr Atkins to ask Woodbury Handyman to quote for the work

- Cllr Lewis is still waiting for third quote for the next phase of work on the Avenue trees

AAC/42 Gates at Avenue Field

- It is clear the PC has stewardship and therefore bears the cost of work needed.
- Opinions on the extent of work required, placement of the new posts and cost of the work have been given to the chairman and discussed by councillors via e-mail
- There was a suggested desirability of replacing the gates in wood in their original position to maintain ambience discourage parking etc. Cllr Culhane felt it was possible to place new gate posts in the original holes by drilling out remnants of old posts and reusing them. This way would make it unnecessary to remove any concrete.

Action: Cllr Atkins to seek advice and ask David Lee to look and give an opinion and cost to replace gates in their original position using this simpler method.

AAC/43 Surveys for the Hub Building

This item was held over as Cllr Payne who is leading on the project was not present.

AAC/43 Notice Board for Business Use

- Cllrs Lewis and Culhane suggested a designated space for villagers who operate small business from home or in the village to be able to inform residents of their services would be very beneficial and support local enterprise. It is suggested another new notice board be purchased for this purpose and placed under the railway arch for this purpose.
- Cllr Francis shared a photo she took of an advert a small business person has placed without permission on the LPC notice board at the bottom of School Hill. This might indicate the provision of a dedicated board for 'advertising' is needed.
- At this early stage it was suggested by Cllr Lewis interest could be gauged by a Face book/Lympstone .org post.
- If sufficient interest emerged from this initial enquiry, then the next steps of management and if charges would apply would need to be explored.

Action: Clerk to find cost for two more notice boards to be placed underneath the Railway Arch.

Action: Cllr Francis to work on a Facebook post to seek interest in suggested provision of dedicated business notice board.

AAC 23/45 Items for Next Agenda

- Quote for work on lime trees in the Avenue.

Meeting Closed 8:35pm

Chairman:

Date: