Assets and Amenities Committee meeting
Monday 16th October 2023 at 7pm in the Meeting Room of LVH

Committee Members Present: Cllrs Atkins, Staddon, Hill, Linfoot and Francis
Members of Public: 0

Public Session: none present

AAC 23/46 Apologies – none received

AAC 23/47 Minutes: Minutes of previous meeting 31st July Approved. Unanimous Cllrs Atkins, Staddon, Hill and Francis. Cllr Linfoot not present at that meeting did not vote.

AAC 23/48 Cliff Field Kissing Gate:

- After public comments and discussion, it was decided to recommend to full council the gate should be modified to allow access for pushchairs etc
- It is proposed the curved inner field edge will be modified to allow passage for pushchairs and the gate will self-close as it is on sloping ground to maintain safety for children entering the road way. In favour Cllrs Hill, Staddon Linfoot and Francis Against Cllr Atkins

Action: Cllr Attkins to obtain costing for proposed work and item added to full council Agenda for next meeting

AAC 23/49 Trees

a) Consider further pollarding of trees in the Avenue
- It is unclear how many trees would be included in one of the quotations already obtained. Discussion on the desirability of obtaining a quotation for work to pollard all trees rather than phasing work as it has been a significant time since last pollarding was undertaken.
- It was proposed by Cllr Hill Seconded by Cllr Linfoot for Cllr Atkins to obtain a quotation for work to be carried out on all trees in the Avenue – Unanimous
- Quotation should be obtained October/November so it can be added to the agenda for December full PC meeting, and voted on
- Once pollarding work completed Avenue pathway should be 'swept' to improve surface

b) Crown Raising of three trees on northern boundary of Avenue Field
- It was proposed by Cllr Hill and seconded by Cllr Linfoot to facilitate better hedge cutting along that boundary of the field to raise the crowns of the three trees situated there – Unanimous

c) Consider the trees in Candys Field between tennis courts and the field
- The cherry trees in this row of trees should not have work carried out until the spring – obtain quotation for work beginning of spring

d) Replacement of two oaks in Candy's Field
- Young Oak from Potters Farm will replace the oak pulled over. Work will take place when weather optimum for transplanting. The dead Jubilee Oak will be replaced by EDDC
- Oak in front of the preschool is too near to building and will be moved

- Examine the oak at corner of Playpark. Tree is now showing signs of further ill health with weeping and indications of rotting

Action: Cllr Atkins to contact Mr Jeans from the arboricultural team at EDDC to discuss further action/felling

Urgent: Cllr Staddon discovered one of the safety fencing uprights to the play park has a wider spacing than all the others causing a potential safety hazard by allowing children to get through the gap therefore risk becoming trapped.

Action: Cllr Linfoot to inspect and item added to November full council agenda

e) Consider raising crown of Lime Trees in Candy's Field

- Agreed branches are hanging low at head height and some action to minimise possible injuries is required
- The trees form a boundary between LVH and Candys Field. Work on the trees to be paid for on this occasion by PC. In future LVH are at liberty to pay to have any branches overhanging the tennis removed.

Action: Cllr Atkins to get quote and raise a work order with Mr Morrish

AAC 23/50 Lympstone Cemetery

- The work to raise the pavers and relay the path will begin in January. The excavated soil while the work is carried out will, by agreement with Miles Freeman their Premises Manager, temporarily be laid on sheeting in LVH carpark and collected. Mr Freeman needs to be informed closer to work actually starting of dates etc.
- Several headstones are leaning – these need to be packed and levelled. Quotations for this work are needed. PC to potentially fund this work then issue guidelines to funeral directors/stonemasons on plinth sizes to prevent this problem reoccurring

Action Cllr Atkins to obtain quote for levelling soil/ ground around headstones from Orchards and Mr Morrish so options can be put to full council

Further improvement work to cemetery

- Future plans/meetings to consider opening the path that is currently closed off allowing access from Jacksons Meadow through cemetery to School Hill providing a shorter safer route

AAC 23/51 Roadside and footpath weeds and hedges

- Some property owners are diligent in clearing these others not
- Cllr Hill raised news item of Buddleia davidii potentially being considered as an invasive species – this is one of the plants causing concern along some pathways
- It is possible for residents to clear weeds etc on pathways as part of a community effort

Action: Cllr Linfoot to write an article encouraging community involvement and effort on this subject to be published in Herald, Lympstone.org and Facebook

AAC 23/52 Budget

- Costs of future work and 5-year plan need to be considered

- Finance Committee need to meet to look over running costs – precept, Capital projects – CIL money
- Identify upcoming projects eg. Repair of toilet facias and guttering, living history phone box, Hub rebuild, 20mph speed limit, ongoing tree work
- A method of identifying whether monies are from eg CIL funds on accounts would be helpful and facilitate clearer accounting understanding

AAC 23/53 Front Meadow Site and dead trees

- The lease for the church carpark has still not been finalised as Diocese Solicitors are not happy with its current format. Cllr Hill believes if they wish the proposed terms to be expressed in a different way, they should bear the cost of this legal work not the PC. When they have a document, they would be ready to sign it can be presented to the PC and our legal representatives.
- The Church should also make a contribution the resurfacing cost of the part of the access road from Charles Court entrance to the car park along with the PC. Suggested one twelfth each.
- A request from the Garden Club to use a legacy they have been given to replace one of the newly planted dead trees. The Club have also offered to water and look after the tree if their request is granted. Proposal by Cllr Staddon seconded by Cllr Linfoot to accept this offer - Unanimous

Action: Cllr Francis to take photographs of the newly planted trees on Front Meadow and establish how many are dead

AAC 23/55 Benches – to consider memorial bench and replacement bench requests

- Costs for memorial benches would be approx. £600 for new bench and Plaque, £300 for just a plaque
- Proposal: 4 options that could/should be inserted at point 4.4/ 4.5 in the policy to make it clearer to applicants what is possible.

1. Memorial bench and plaque in preferred location (may have to wait some considerable time before a replacement bench is required).

2. Memorial Bench to be placed in a new location which does not currently have a bench (agreed with the PC)

3. Memorial bench to be placed in a location identified by PC (to replace a bench).

4. Plaque placed on a bench in a preferred location (if a bench is available).
Only one Plaque per bench. Cost is 50% of the full price of bench and plaque etc.
Proposed Cllr Linfoot Seconded Cllr Staddon – Unanimous

- Flowers on Benches – currently against policy without permission -. Sensitive issue as one grieving family who lost both parents very recently and very close together tend and replace a small floral tribute currently. Review situation in future

AAC 23/55 Items for next Agenda

- None raised.

Meeting Closed 8:55

Chairman: Date: