

Minutes of the Open Spaces and Play Parks Committee Meeting
Held in Colburn Village Hall on Monday 6th January 2025 at 5.30 pm

Present

Chair: Cllr Miles Burnham took the chair

Councillors: Andrea Crowe & Angela Dale

In attendance: Barry Robertson Ground Maintenance

Clerk: Philippa Graves

1. **Apologies for absence** – Cllrs Wayne Garbutt & Akuila Tutora.

2. **To receive Councillor “Declaration of Interests** – none

3. **Matters Arising** from the Minutes of 9th December 2024

Wetpour issues Piper Hill – RTC Safety Surfaces were currently too busy to visit for a quote. In February/March the office will pursue and ask Matthew Day of Streetscape for a quote for the work to be started in the new financial year 2025-26 where there is an allowance in the budget. Drier ground conditions will also cause less damage to surrounding grassland.

A vote of thanks was recorded for Cllr Crowe for replanting the 3 tier planter so successfully.

4. To receive an **update from the Groundsman** on progress addressing yellow issues in the **Annual Inspection** by RoSPA in September.

Barry Robertson had updated the online reports in the office to include latest repair work to cover the Muga area, Albermarle Park and Bridge Close Play Parks.

Recent Work – MUGA cleared of fly tipping. Hedge at Albermarle had missed the hedge cutting carried out on David Wood’s adjacent land so Barry had cut the hedge himself which is encouraging a bushier stronger hedge creating an improved boundary line. Due to the high winds, extra litter picks have been carried out and the fly tipping found in Colburn Sidings Woods has been cleared.

The planned tree work has started with the big trees taken down before the latest storm and thinning of smaller trees ongoing. This will continue to March.

5. To discuss the purchase of **new outdoor Christmas lights for the Broadway Christmas Tree** for next year.

Barry had established that the ground switch to the lamp post needed an electrician to repair as there was water ingress causing outages. It was agreed to seek a quote from SC Electrical services to include Pat testing of the system. Barry would need to meet an electrician on site. Once this work had been done, the old lights could be checked but Barry felt a new controller was needed before they would work correctly.

If the old lights were unusable, new lights would have to be purchased next Autumn.

As there was no electrical socket, lights could not be installed along the raised beds.

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6. To confirm quotes on additional soil for Raised beds on The Broadway.

Barry had obtained quotes from YBIS for 6 bags regular quality soil £254.64 or premium £389.22. It was agreed that Premium soil must be used together with some feeding for the plants. Barry would probably put 2 bags at a time in his trailer and then bucket it into the beds as needed.

It was agreed that Cllrs Crowe and Dale would purchase suitable plants for the raised beds and planters in April from their local source which are excellent value and the plants are hardy as they are kept outside.

Large quantity of various bulbs would be purchased for planting in September next year.

7. To note Litter pick dates

Dates to be noted – Sat 18th Jan, Sat 1st & 15th February 2025

8. Biodiversity Action Plan – to note any opportunities in future plans.

To be added - the extended Wild Flower area has been seeded. Broadway beds have been weeded, shrubs cut back, soil will be enriched and new plants and bulbs planted to increase insect activity.

The thinning of the trees in Sidings Woods with the wood left in piles would also support insect habitat and birds.

9. Date of next meeting – Mon 3rd February 2025 commencing at 5.30 pm

This is the first Monday in the month.

10. Items for next Agenda

None recorded

The Chair thanked everyone for their attendance and meeting closed at 6 pm.

*Manning
20/1/25*