

Minutes of the Open Spaces and Play Parks Committee Meeting
Held in Colburn Village Hall on Monday 3rd March 2025 at 5.30 pm

Present

Chair: Cllr Andrea Crowe

Councillors: Angela Dale, Miles Burnham & Akuila Tutora

In attendance: Barry Robertson Ground Maintenance

Deputy Clerk: Angela Pickersgill

1 member of the public attended.

1. **Apologies for absence** – Cllr Paul Towers
2. **To receive Councillor “Declaration of Interests** – none
3. **Matters Arising** from the Minutes of 3rd February 2025
 - Christmas lights** – new controller received free of charge, lights now in working order.
 - New Star**- to be purchased for the top of the tree later in the year.
 - Litter bins**- Street scene informed the office that they cannot be secured to the ground but now have concrete weights making it easier to re-site as necessary. No longer permitted to site dog bins as posts cannot be dug into the ground due to risk of pipe/cable damage. The new dual litter/dog waste bins cost £428 plus VAT. Broken existing bins will be replaced by NYC unless they are in close proximity to an existing bin.
4. To receive an **update from the Groundsman** on progress addressing yellow issues in the **Annual Inspection** by RoSPA in September. Groundsman will send over sheets for updating to the office as work is completed (none reported since last meeting).

Report

Sidings Woods maintenance continues concentrating on the woodland paths filling in pot holes and clearing path ways.

Common land in Colburn Village - assessed trees for Ash die back. 2 trees on the boundary of Mr Abel Smith’s land and the Town Council are dead/covered in ivy and should be removed. Mr Abel Smith has offered to remove at his expense as he has a woodsman working on his woods currently. Next year, the Town Council’s Groundsman needs to spend much of the winter clearing and thinning in the Common Land woods similar to the Sidings Woods.

The **Three tier planter at Broadway** had been pushed over (reported by Wayne Garbutt) with plants and soil spread over the grass. Groundsman has up-righted the planter but many plants have been lost.

Goal Boards from Albermarle play park have been taken away for welding work to be completed.

4 NO Dogs Signs for MUGA affixed and can be clearly seen.

W. Manning
17/3/25

The Groundsman had reported at the February meeting that a resident adjacent to **Albermarle Play Park** was propping his fence up with some pieces of wood with nails in. The Office was instructed to contact the resident to remove this and a letter was sent.

The resident attended the meeting and was upset that no one had been to see him regarding this. It was one piece of wood & two nails stopping the fence moving and not as reported.

It was **Resolved** that any complaints in future need to be checked by the committee before instructing the office to contact any resident.

Cllr Burnham has been to the park today and confirmed it is only one piece of wood and two nails. The resident has been contacted by phone today and has had an apology and will be carrying out the full fence repair as soon as possible.

5. The committee discussed the email from **GB sports & Leisure regarding overlaying wet pour safety surfacing with artificial grass safety surfacing**. By re-using the existing wet pour to provide the necessary critical fall height protection, they can cost effectively maintain the safety surface and reduce the project costs by not having to remove the existing wet pour to a licenced facility and the costs of a new shock pad.

A significant advantage with installing the artificial grass carpeting is that it carries a 7-year warranty unlike wet pour where no warranty can be provided. This does not cover vandalism or misuse but provides significant peace of mind once installed.

Concerns were raised regarding how the green baize would look on the grassed areas so further information would be required.

A quote had been received from RTC Safety for the sum of £12,025 plus VAT to carry out Wetpour repairs at 6 sites. This is valid from 15th February for 30 days and they are unable to guarantee the bond between old and new wet pour which lasts approx. 4-5 years.

The Groundsman was meeting Matthew Day of Steetscape on Wed 5th to discuss the pros and cons of replacing Wetpour as against the artificial grass surfacing proposal and then seek quotes from both GB Sports Leisure and Streetscape.

6. The committee discussed a date for the **Garden competition**. It was **Resolved** that **the judging** would take place the week commencing **Monday 21st July**, the **Scarecrow judging** would take place on **Friday 25th July** with the theme of **VE Day celebrations**. Presentations will be on the **Saturday 26th July** in the Village Hall. Judges to be organised by the deputy clerk.
7. **Planter Sponsorship** Cllr Crowe informed the committee that more plants were needed for the planters, Cllrs Crowe & Dale will be sorting the list and obtaining the plants.
The cost of the **Sponsorship cost will remain the same price, £80 per planter**. Office will contact the present sponsors to see if they wish to carry on another year. If spare planters are available, it will be advertised on social media by the office.
8. The committee discussed the possibility of a **commemorative tree for VE day**. Cllr Crowe had been approached by Cllr Dunning saying she had 2 trees available but unfortunately, the trees are large and there is no suitable space to plant them.

*N Dunning
17/3/25*

Another suggestion was put forward that **the raised bed at the top of Broadway could be made into a commemorative flower bed** with possibly a fruit tree, rose bushes or other low maintenance plants for under-planting with a commemorative plaque placed on the front of the flower bed.

9. To arrange a date for **ivy removal** - the committee discussed opening it out to the public. **Possible date would be 5th April but Adults only to attend.** Office to check insurance liability for public attending using sharp tools ie loppers, secateurs, small saws

10. Litter pick dates

Dates to be noted – Sat 8th & 22nd March, 5th & 26th April 2025. Dates to be notified to Julie Toombes, NYC at Mercury House for collection of bags.

11. **Biodiversity Action Plan** – to note any opportunities in future plans. Plan updated and reviewed from 9th January meeting.

12. Date of next meeting – **Mon 7th April 2025 commencing at 5.30 pm**

The Chair thanked everyone for attending. Meeting closed at 6.20 pm

*Manning
17/3/25*