

**MINUTES OF THE OPEN SPACE AND PLAY PARKS COMMITTEE MEETING**  
**VIA ZOOM**  
**HELD ON THURSDAY 13TH MAY AT 6.30 PM**

**Present** Chair Cllr Angela Dale, Cllr Michelle Dunning, Cllr Jag Sharma  
Cllr Miles Burnham

**In Attendance** Cllr Kevin Foster, Cllr Colin Lyne, Cllr Colin Mincher, Cllr Helen Grant

**Maintenance person** Barry Robertson  
**Deputy Clerk** Angie Pickersgill

**Apologies** Cllr Charlene Thirlwell ~ work commitments.

**MATTERS ARISING**

Cllr Dale had met with Gary Hudson from RDC & our Ground maintenance person at Albermarle play park to discuss the height and gaps in the hedge at the side of the park. The hedge has become over grown and needs flailing. It was **RESOLVED** that after the nesting bird season comes to an end, a contractor is contacted to come and cut the hedge back. There are also 4 or 5 areas in the hedge which has gaps which need addressing. It was suggested that post and rail fencing be erected and weldmesh barrier attached to it to prevent children from getting through the current gaps. Quotes for the whole area to be fenced have been requested but all of the tradesmen are very busy and it could be a long time before the whole fence could be completed. Also, Cllrs felt that they would prefer not to have a fence on the inside of the existing hedgerow. A discussion took place to see if the Groundsman could put in post and rail fencing and well mesh just in the areas where it was required. It was **RESOLVED** that all of the Committee were in favour of this decision and that it would be ratified at full Council.

**GROUNDMAN'S REPORT**

The groundsman reported that he had found a hole in the wet pour at Piper hill park which needs to be repaired and he is seeking advice on this matter. The litter bin in Piper hill park had been set on fire; thankfully it had not caused any damage to the bin or outside area. Also broken beer bottles have been removed from the muga; both of these matters are been reported to the Police. Wildflowers are starting to grow along the A6136 and the Cllrs look forward to a good show of wild flowers in the Summer. The Groundsman was thanked for all of his hard work. The Cycle path, it had been noted that work had been taking place. The Cllrs did not know what had happened.

Amended Minute - I was contacted by Cllr Dale after the meeting. Subsequently 2 volunteers who attend the litter picks had started to edge the cycle path which looks fantastic, They had cut back and laid the sods on top to make a new edge which should take.

Groundsman full report attached.

**BRIDGE CLOSE PARK**

Work has taken place outside the park and they have left the grass churned up and uneven. The contractors assured the Groundsman that it would be corrected but it has not. It was **RESOLVED** that the office contact the contractor for them to repair the area.

**COLBURN IN BLOOM**

The grants have now been received. Cllr Grant has kindly offered £1000 for another bench out of her Locality budget this year. It was **RESOLVED** that quotes be requested for 15 planters and 6 benches

which will be part of the Colburn in Bloom project. The Benches were chosen by the committee. They are decorated with flowers on to brighten the area.

RDC to be contacted by the office regarding the Colburn Dale development money for the Broadway to see how much money is left and move this project forward. Cllr Dale is also looking at a CIF application to match fund the Awards 4 All application that she has already received for the Council.

### **GARDENING & SCARECROW COMPETITION**

A discussion took place regarding the date. It was **RESOLVED** that a poll is put on social media for the members of the public to choose between 2 dates in July either the Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> July for presentation with judging commencing Monday 5<sup>th</sup> July or Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> July for presentation with judging commencing Monday 12<sup>th</sup> July. The Open Garden project has been postponed until next year.

### **LITTER PICKS**

Another litter pick will be taking place at the weekend. Cllr Dunning reported on the amount of litter collected and what items they had found. A lot more work is required to remove all of it. The Clean up crew are now able to identify the areas which need most work and with all the volunteer's new areas are able to be picked and they are able to get further along too. The fortnightly litter picks are working well and will carry on. The litter picks are attended on a voluntary basis only.

### **PLAY PARK GRANTS**

The groundsman was asked his opinion on which play park would benefit from having some new equipment installed if the Council were able to secure the grants for it. Bridge Park was suggested and the second park was Grange Park. It was **RESOLVED** that the grants be applied for and quotations then received from 3 play park companies.

### **STREET LIGHTING**

Extra Street Light Scheme at RDC. A resident requested an extra street light on the corner junction of Grange Road and Meadowfield Road as the area is particularly dark there. It was discussed and it was **RESOLVED** that the request be put forward to RDC for consideration.

### **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

Cllr Dale had a conversation with Gary Hudson from RDC regarding the play park inspections and he advised that we have an Annual Independent Inspection of all of our Play Parks. It was **RESOLVED** that all Cllrs were in agreement that the annual inspection should be done. Office to contact Zurich to arrange the inspection at a cost of £835.01 plus VAT.

### **Grants received up until 10<sup>th</sup> May 2021-22**

**Awards for All** - £10,000 grant applied for 26.3.21. Confirmed 16.4.21. Purpose to provide more benches and flower planters along A6136 and in the Siding Woods.

**NYCC Locality Grant**- £1000 applied for 3.2.2020. Agree immediately with an extension to August 2021 to spend the money due to covid restrictions. Purpose to add money for Flower Planters.

**Garrison Area Partnership Grant** - £1000 applied for 10.12.20. Confirmed 3.2.21. Purpose to provide another bench for along the A6136.

Meeting Closed at 7.50pm

Next meeting Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2021.