**POS Meeting Minutes**

**Monday 12th JUNE 2023**

**at 10.00am –** Zoom

1. **Attendees** – Cllr’s A Watley (Chairman), T Lockhart, T Hinton, K Wood, K Parkinson, K Bennett, N McCarthy, S Clapham (Clerk).
2. **Apologies for absence** – R Keeble (holiday), R Nelson (holiday), H Cannon (holiday), J Lewis, T Thomas, V Dean, J Clarke.
3. **Matters Arising** (Not Covered by todays Agenda) – To consider planting more spring bulbs in autumn. **Action:** add to September’s diary reminder.
4. **General updates**:-

(a) The Soap house footpath running parallel to the Doctor’s surgery was trimmed by MDL on 8th June as it was terribly overgrown and inaccessible.

(b) Planters to be re-stocked by Matthew in the next two weeks of June.

1. **Recreation Areas**

**Walter Hobbs:**

1. ROSPA external risk assessment– Paul Tucker has undertaken work – to receive updates and invoices to be paid.
2. Nest swing vandalised – The Clerk obtained the following quote form Broadmead Leisure for a replacement. He felt it was irreparable.

£902 (Trade price) including installation (pictures circulated to Committee prior to meeting). The Clerk advised there was still no reply from Playquip who installed it previously. Cllr Watley proposed and the Committee agreed to accept Broadmead Leisure’s quote of £902 if Playquip did not provide a cheaper alternative.

**Action**: The Clerk will chase Playquip for a second quote and add to the PC agenda for approval.

1. Wooden seating may need replacing - (Clerk circulated photos prior to meeting). **Action**: Clerk to provide quotes for repair and replacement (where appropriate). The Clerk mentioned this was the same style as the damaged seat at the Mill Lane bus stop which has a missing top slat.
2. See saw – possible replacement – The Clerk had circulated a quote from Broadmead Leisure at £1400 for the seesaw and an extra £750 for installation with 4 grass mats. Total is £2150. **Action:** Clerk to obtain further quote from Playquip Leisure for two see-saws (including Mill Lane).

**Ted Marriage:**

1. ROSPA external risk assessment – as above
2. Metal goal post – A resident had reported that the goalpost in the centre of the field appeared rotten at the base and was moving and potentially dangerous. – Cllr Lockhart inspected it immediately & reported that the two uprights had rotted below ground level. The Clerk had asked Total Landscapes to lay it flat on the ground prior to the meeting to avoid an accident. **Action**: It was agreed that the Clerk will ask Total Landscapes to remove it entirely and dispose of it as there was still an alternative goal post at the opposite end of the field. Cllr Keeble had mentioned that maybe a grant could be sought from the Football Foundation of up to 75% should the Committee decide to replace it in the future.

**Mill Lane:**

1. ROSPA external risk assessment – as above
2. Missing directional finger from finger post – The Clerk reported that disappointingly the quote from Deckanon was still pending despite the continued chasing (this applies to all outstanding parish finger post repair works). Cllr Lockhart said that he had the impression from previous discussions that he was not available for work and was looking at retiring even though he had told the Clerk he was still available to undertake the works discussed. **Action**: Cllr Hinton supplied the Clerk with an alternative carpenter’s details and she will contact him.
3. New See saw – As per above item (d) Walter Hobbs. Quotes being sought.

**Millennium Park:**

1. Proposed Over flow car park extension and new flood lighting – It was noted that the Parish Council (PC) was still waiting for receipt of details of the lighting installation proposed along with and plans and cabling details. It would also need confirmation that all electricity costs and maintenance costs would be covered by the Village Hall complex and not the PC. The PC also wanted reassurance that consideration had been given to neighbouring residents to ensure that there would be no light pollution from the flood lighting. The PC had agreed in principle that permission would be granted once the necessary information had been received. **Action:** Updates required from Cllr Keeble and the Blackmore Village Hall Committee (BVH). the Clerk can then supply a formal letter of consent.
2. Car park Laurel hedge trimming – Cllr Keeble had obtained a quotation to trim the car park Laurel hedge for £480. He suggested splitting the cost between the PC - £320 and BVH - £160 – This was in line with previous works. Cllr Watley proposed that the work be approved and all agreed on the understanding it was not carried out during the bird nesting season (August). **Action:** Clerk to add this to the PC agenda for approval.
3. Wooden seating may need replacing – as above item (c ) Walter Hobbs.

**Blackmore Village Hall**:

1. Proposal for a 3G football pitch - Cllr Keeble had again been contacted by Stuart Lucas to consider a full size 3G pitch replacing one of the pitches on Walter Hobbs field and sought the views of the PC members. Cllr Keeble had mentioned that it would also mean that the number of cricket ‘strips’ would need to be reduced to cope with the dimensions of the 3G pitch. He felt this would be detrimental to cricket as they require the present number to fulfill their 40 matches over the season.

The Committee again discussed this at length and weighed up the options as presented and the following observations were made:

* It would be detrimental to the Cricket club for the reasons stated above and may result in an untenable situation.
* It seems that the Village Hall committee aren’t in support of this and does not feel it is necessary to provide a 3G pitch for the existing clients/clubs, or suitably potential new clubs for this type of complex.
* Parking is already an issue and often beyond full capacity, hence the need to extend the parking into the Millennium field overflow car park. The work and flood lighting required is going to come at an expense to the complex to accommodate the current users of the complex. It was not convinced there would be adequate parking for the additional football teams and visitors the 3G pitch would undoubtedly attract.
* It is not only out of keeping with the village hall complex but also the village itself. It was felt that 3G pitches are generally better suited to less rural community sites and are more in keeping with large towns and built up areas, which are also more accessible.
* Additional traffic to the village along-side the new houses designated for sites R25 and R26 in the Local Development Plan (LDP) was an existing concern for local residents. This was documented in the LDP Consultation process. Additional traffic would exacerbate this.
* The Committee also acknowledged that Brentwood Borough Council and the Brentwood Centre are building 6 new football pitches which will include two new 3G football pitches due to be delivered in 2024. These 3G pitches are more suitably allocated but still close enough for local Teams to ‘hire’ them.
* The Parochial Charity Trust leases the ‘ground’ to the Parish Council. When it was placed in trust by the family of Mr Walter Hobbs in the late 1800’s?? it was to benefit the local residents of the parish with a recreational and social space. Any covenants placed on the land would have to be considered.

**Action**: After careful consideration, the POS Committee wish to recommend to the Parish Council not to proceed with a 3G pitch for the above reasons. The Members acknowledged that Mr Lucas’ very kind offer of funding the complex’s upgrades would be much more appreciated for the other more urgent maintenance improvements, such as the car park extension, flood lighting and the urgent roof repairs which are needed to remedy the existing leaks and water damage it has suffered as a result.

**The Clerk will add this recommendation to the PC agenda**.

**General Items:**

1. **Missing finger from Watsons Corner post-** (ECC’s post)

Cllr McCarthy has in his possession the third finger of the post on Watsons Corner, the one that points to Wyatts Green/Mountnessing.  He retrieved it last month when he spotted it on the ground. The wood around the joint is rotten. As Deckanon still haven't replaced the missing finger at Mill Lane, he suggested trying a DIY fix using some metal framework which he already has, and which could be disguised with white paint to blend in.  **Action**: It was agreed this would be attempted as ECC may not replace the seat and this bus stop is very well used.

1. **RTA- Blackmore roundabout damage**

Pending completion of the fingerpost (same issues with Deckanon as mentioned above) **Action**: Clerk will source alternative contractor and quotations.

1. **Future of zoom meetings**

The Committee discussed whether it wished to continue with POS meetings via Zoom in light of the cancellation of the licence meaning that the ‘free’ meetings had a cut off after 40 minutes. All Members felt that it was more convenient as meetings could be accessed even if they weren’t able to attend face-to-face meetings and it had been noted that the meetings were better attended because of this.

**Action**: It was agreed that the Zoom meetings for the POS Committee would continue for now and any resident wishing to attend could contact the Clerk for the meeting link. Two separate 40 minute sessions would be set up by the Clerk as well as Cllr McCarthy *or* Cllr Hinton. The Clerk would continue to ensure that all items of business, recommendations and referrals be placed on the next public Ordinary PC meeting agenda at Tipps Cross Hall where members of the public are welcome to attend and address the Council at the start of each meeting. All PC and Committee meeting minutes will also be posted on the PC website.

1. **AOB**

Cllr Watley felt it was time he handed the Chairmanship role to another Member who is able to take the role on. He had been Chairman for some time now and felt it was time he stepped down to free up some personal time. Members to consider nominations. **Action**: The Clerk will add this to the PC agenda.

1. **Diary Reminder**

September 2023 – to discuss Christmas lighting and spring bulb planting. **Action**: Comm.

1. **Close of Meeting**

There being no further business the meeting was closed by the Chairman at 11.15am.

1. **Date of Next Meeting**: 17th July – 10.00am, Zoom.