

**EDGMOND PARISH
COUNCIL
ENVIRONMENT AND RIGHTS OF WAY COMMITTEE**

MINUTES of the meeting held on **Tuesday 21st November 2017** in Edgmond Village Hall at 1.30pm.

Present: Councillor Mrs P Doherty
Councillor G Jones
Councillor D Ryan
Councillor K Humphreys
Councillor R Higginson
Councillor Mrs M Barton
Councillor K Arbuthnot

In attendance: Katrina Baker (Clerk)
Richard Chesters, Secretary, Bowling Club
Fred Wheedon, Trustee, Bowling Club
Derek Owen, TWC

E2017/109 Welcome

The Chairman, Councillor P Doherty, welcomed members to the meeting and thanked them for attending.
Councillor Doherty welcomed the representatives of the Bowling Club who had raised concerns over the future maintenance of the adjacent play area and in particular the hedges (which are shared).

E2017/110 Apologies for absence

Councillor Mrs C Edwards

E2017/111 Declarations of Interest

Councillor Paula Doherty is a Member of the Local Access Forum and The Ramblers.

E2017/112 Minutes of the meeting held on 19th October 2017

The Chairman questioned the Minutes of the last meeting, especially Minute E2017/104 and proposed that the wording be amended to

‘It was agreed at the last meeting that a site visit should take place with Derek Owen, TWC. This took place on 25th August with the Chairman, Councillor R Higginson and Chairman of the Environment Committee.’

With this amendment, it was seconded by Councillor D Ryan that the Minutes of the last meeting be signed by the Chairman as a true record. All were in favour and thus it was

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the meeting held on 19th October 2017 (with the amended sentence) be signed as a true record.
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E2017/113 Matters Arising

a) E2017/102 Brook Drains

The Clerk reported that email correspondence had been shared with Councillor Ryan and that the brook drains have been included in a annual programmed scheme.

b) Footpath Programme

Adrian Corney had visited Robin Lane and arranged the necessary work in the cul-de-sac.

c) **Overgrown Hedges and Ivy**

TWC have written to the owners and requested the necessary work be undertaken.

d) **Birchmoor Lane**

Councillor Doherty had taken a look at the 'ditch' which had appeared in Birchmoor Lane and reported that she did not believe it to be a problem as a PROW – it is also a restricted bridleway. A discussion took place and it was thought that the area may be the site of previous speed humps.

It may be necessary to discuss this with Andrew Careless.

e) **Environmental Maintenance**

Details of the standard SLA had been received, but the Parish Council would require the details specific to Edgmond before further consideration can be given to our requirements. This information has been requested.

f) **Tree Project**

This would be added to the next Agenda for a further update.

g) **Trees in Marsh Road**

The Clerk had shared the Tree Officer's response with Councillor Ryan who confirmed that the information was accepted.

E2017/114

MUGA and Play Area

The Chairman gave an overview of the current position and previous discussions that had taken place from the initial site visit in July 2015 to the receipt of the draft lease in August of this year. The document had raised further questions and it was soon established that more work and consideration was necessary.

The Chairman introduced two members of the Bowling Club who were interested in the future maintenance of the site in particular because of the hedge maintenance.

It was proposed by Councillor Doherty and seconded by Councillor Ryan that the Parish Council standing orders be suspended to allow the guests to take part in a discussion. All were in favour and thus it was

RESOLVED that the standing orders be suspended and that Mr Chesters and Mr Wheedon be invited to discuss this with the Parish Council and Derek Owen.

Derek has responsibility for parks and open spaces in a management role managing play areas of all sizes. He shared details of the sites currently managed and gave details of new and revised sports facilities. He also has input into the Play Strategy for the Council.

Derek was asked about the possible closures of play areas and he was able to explain the Council's financial position and the decision taken for rationalization. There had been work undertaken to identify where there would be minimal impact of local communities.

Newport Town Council is now working in partnership with TWC for their play areas. Most of the recent closures have been small areas, but there are likely to be more in the future. Other areas are looking for alternative management procedures or shared facilities. Some play areas are owned and managed by Parish Councils, such as Little Wenlock.

Shropshire Playing Fields Association help and support PTCs and can offer advice and funding. There are other grants available to PTCs that are not available to TWC.

Derek, whilst at TWC, will continue to offer advice and assist with funding applications. When new applications are submitted, TWC looks for opportunities to include requests for Section 106 funding.

Current work on the Play Strategy has identified the need for further discussions and may identify the scale of transfers that will be necessary. There is an opportunity for communities to invest in their local play areas when TWC cannot apply for grants. Residents Associations can also apply for external funding, if the Parish Council is not in a position to take on the responsibility.

Members had an opportunity to ask further questions:

- Newport TC has entered into an interim period by offering a donation towards the maintenance of the play area with a view to taking on the lease in the future.
- Derek agreed to seek further legal advice regarding a shared agreement where the PC took on the equipment but TWC continued the grass and landscape maintenance.
- Edmond Parish Council would be advised to seek alternative quotes for the landscape maintenance – there may be someone locally who is interested in the work. It could also be included in the TWC tender for 2019, but at what cost?

Further information was made available regarding the RoSPA inspections and related costs. It may be cost effective to combine this with litter picking or bin emptying. The important point is that now is a time to consider change, it no longer has to be done 'the way it always has been'.

It is accepted that little maintenance has taken place on the equipment in recent years, but the play value is still high and even if new equipment was purchased, the play value would remain the same.

The Bowling Club representatives informed the Parish Councillors of their agreements, including the path maintenance, they have an agreement in place with TWC that this will continue. It is necessary to keep in mind the current restriction regarding disabled access.

Derek was asked to confirm the work that would be undertaken prior to any future lease agreement, on the site, equipment, benches etc.

One point raised previously was the location of the bin with regards to it being emptied – a decision would be needed.

A further decision would be required regarding the option to move the fence in order that dogs can be tied and still seen from the play area. Derek would ascertain a cost for this work and if any TWC funding would be available to assist.

Derek informed Members that there is some good quality redundant equipment available from other sites and if acceptable, the PC would only have to pay for installation – Derek would ascertain approximate costs in order that the PC can give further consideration.

The Clerk confirmed that the annual costs established to date were:

£600 hedge maintenance

£55 insurance

£900 grass cutting

£60 annual rospa

The cost for training for the weekly (fortnightly) rospa visits was £450 (full) and £270 (supported).

It was clear that more information is required and that further discussions would take place at the next meeting.

E2017/115

Date of the next meeting

11th December 2017 6.30pm

Edgmond Village Hall

There being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 3.00pm.

SignedDate