



Bothenhampton & Walditch
Parish Council since 1886

**MINUTES OF OPEN SPACES AND PLAY AREAS BUSINESS MEETING
held REMOTELY at 4pm on 10th May 2021**

Initials	Present
GS	Cllr Graham Styles (Chair)
JB	Cllr Jim Basker
EB	Cllr Edward Berry
TC	Tan Cox (Clerk)

Ref	Agenda Item	Action
	Declaration of any pecuniary interests relating to items in the agenda: None	
	Apologies: None	
	CLERK'S NOTE The DAPTC guidance "Returning to Physical Meetings" dated May 2021 says that 'Virtual formats may be used for business meetings of members and consultation with the clerk' and 'Only decisions taken by the council at a face-to-face meeting, or under the Scheme of Delegation will be lawful'. As such the Terms of Reference of the OSPA meeting have been amended to reflect its business format. The Clerk confirmed that no decisions are taken in the OSPA meeting and any recommendations are elevated to the Main Committee Meeting.	

Minutes agreed: Chairman

on 5th July 2021

Ref	Agenda Item	Action
	<p>MINUTES OF THE MEETING ON 22nd February 2021 The minutes for the 22nd February 2021 were agreed.</p> <p>MATTERS ARISING FROM MEETING ON 22nd February 2021</p> <p>Nature Reserves</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Send clerk explanatory text and link to nature reserve plan. Clerk to post to website. Action completed. <p>John Holt Play Area</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create additional signage and progress preparation. Action completed. <p>Lower Walditch Play Area</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Speak to the Lengthsman about the uncapped hinge fitting on the far gate. Action completed. • Referring to the British Standard tags, Cllr AL to pass to Cllr GS. Action completed. • Cllr GS to ask the Lengthsman to affix to equipment. Action completed. 	
1	<p>MAIN BUSINESS</p> <p>JELLYFIELDS NATURE RESERVE / BOTHENHAMPTON NATURE RESERVE</p> <p>Cllr GS said that he had emailed DaryIC (BTC) to establish whether any progress had been made on the transfer of the nature reserves from Dorset Council and he confirmed that there had been no progress. This was discussed and councillors were frustrated at the amount of time it was taking to transfer the Nature Reserves.</p> <p>Cllr GS said that both Reserves appear to be in reasonable condition at the present time.</p> <p>There was a brief discussion about the weatherproof stickers that had been purchased and Cllr JB confirmed that the new dog waste bins had been fitted with a sticker.</p>	
2	<p>JOHN HOLT PLAY AREA</p> <p>Cllr GS confirmed that he had visited the play area recently and there were no urgent issues to deal with. He confirmed that the emergency notices that the playground inspector (K Hussey) had recommended had been installed by the lengthsman. The compacted grass under the basket of the swing at the play area has also been made good.</p>	

Ref	Agenda Item	Action
	<p>Cllr GS said that contractors are still at work on the Bothenhampton Main Street Wall and are still using the area immediately adjacent to the play area for parking and storage. It is not known how much longer the work will take</p> <p>Cllr JB raised the issue of the ivy on the dry-stone wall along Quarry Lane that borders the play area. He said that the ivy needs annual removal because the roots undermine the wall. Cllr JB recommended that a group of volunteers be asked to help with the branches. Cllr GS said that he would look at forming a group to do this work.</p>	Cllr GS
3	<p>JOHN GUNDRY PLAY AREA</p> <p>Cllr JB confirmed that Cllr CA has kindly agreed to keep a watching brief on the play area and report to OSPA on any concerns. Cllr JB referred to the new whip hedging that has been planted on the boundary and said it is doing well and growing. He referred to an issue with the fence by the gate – and said that the lengthsman has been informed.</p> <p>Cllr GS confirmed that the lengthsman is now emptying the waste bin at the play area.</p>	
4	<p>LOWER WALDITCH PLAY AREA</p> <p>Cllr GS confirmed that he had visited the play area recently and commented on the remedial work still to be completed by PlayQuest. The Clerk referred to her correspondence with the company and said that they have promised to do the work and will come when they are in the area.</p> <p>Cllr JB referred to an event (first birthday party) that will be taking place on the 25th July 2021 when the new equipment will be installed.</p> <p>Cllr JB said that the LWPA group intended to purchase another piece of equipment. The Clerk expressed her concern about this as the Parish Council will be required to maintain, insure and inspect additional pieces of play equipment. The Clerk was asked to write a letter to the LWPA asking that they discuss further purchases with the parish council prior to ordering.</p>	Clerk

Ref	Agenda Item	Action
5	<p>HOWARD ROAD REWILDING</p> <p>Cllr JB said that he has some whips that could be put into the ground down by the garages at the bottom of Howard Road.</p> <p>He said residents are keen for fruit trees to be planted in the area. The Clerk said that there may be some S106 monies that could be used for this and she would let councillors know the amount.</p>	Clerk
6	<p>ANY OTHER BUSINESS</p> <p>SLADES GREEN – trees were planted on 17th March and local residents have agreed to water and keep an eye on them. The License to Cultivate from Dorset Council Highways has not yet arrived and Cllr GS said he will look out for it.</p> <p>SYCAMORE AVENUE / FELLING OF TREE IN CONSERVATION AREA – see email sent to councillors on 8th May attaching a letter to the new Tree Officer (James Bennett). (On website correspondence page)</p> <p>Cllr JB referred to his meeting with the new tree officer on the 6th May and to the need for a team of volunteers to locate local trees that match the criteria for ‘notable veteran’ (ancient or very ancient). Once found the type, girth and location should be noted and a dated photograph be taken. He referred to a scheme being run by the Woodland Trust to record veteran trees and will pass information to councillors on how to access this data in due course.</p> <p>The Clerk confirmed that she would be happy to keep a database of veteran trees across the parish by type, girth and location and build up the parish council’s record, including photographs. These should be sent to the Clerk with the appropriate cataloguing information.</p> <p>ALLOTMENTS –</p> <p>Cllr GS referred to his discussions with a resident (David Pencheon), in particular to the issue relating to the location of land that could be used for allotments or any other community activities subject of course to the relevant landowner’s approval. Two suggested sites were the greenhouses at the end of Duck Street and an area at the beginning of Long Lane (near The Paddocks). Cllr GS will try to find out the owners of the latter area.</p> <p>Cllr EB said that it would be useful to find out a bit more about the subject before embarking on it – for example how a Parish Council undertakes the creation and management of allotments, including investment and the eventual allocation of allotment sites to members of the public. Cllr GS agreed to look into the setting up and creation of allotments in more depth and brief councillors at the next meeting.</p> <p>Cllr GS asked for ‘Trees’ and ‘Allotments’ to be placed as a standing item on future agenda.</p>	<p>Cllr JB</p> <p>Cllr GS</p> <p>Cllr GS</p>
	<p>The meeting ended at 5pm. Date of next meeting 5th July 2021 at 2pm via Zoom video conference software.</p>	

SUMMARY OF AGREED ACTIONS – 10th May 2021

Action	Owner	Page
Regarding John Holt Play Area / ivy growing on dry stone wall – form a group to tackle the ivy branches which could be undermining the dry-stone wall.	Cllr GS	3
Regarding Lower Walditch Play Area – write a letter to the LWPA asking that they discuss any future purchases of play equipment with the Parish Council before they order them.	Clerk	3
Regarding Howard Road Rewilding / Fruit Trees – Clerk to look at availability of S106 funds and let councillors know.	Clerk	4
Regarding Sycamore Avenue / Veteran Trees – measure the girth, note location and type of tree and take a dated photograph. Send details of Woodland Trust database for uploading data to councillors.	Cllr JB	4
Regarding Allotments – establish owners of ‘The Paddocks	Cllr GS	4
Regarding Allotments – look into the setting up and creation of allotments in more depth and brief councillors at the next meeting	Cllr GS	4

SUMMARY OF ROLLED OVER ITEMS – 10th May 2021

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None	

RECOMMENDATIONS REFERRED TO MAIN COMMITTEE – 14th June 2021

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None	

RECOMMENDATION REFERRED TO F&F SUB-COMMITTEE – 2nd July 2021

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None	

RECOMMENDATION REFERRED TO TT&F SUB-COMMITTEE – 2nd July 2021

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None	