



Bothenhampton & Walditch
Parish Council since 1886

**MINUTES OF OPEN SPACES AND PLAY AREAS SUB-COMMITTEE MEETING
24TH APRIL 2023 AT Ivy House, Bridport at 2pm**

Initials:	Invited
GS	Cllr Graham Styles (Chair)
JB	Cllr Jim Basker
TC	Tan Cox (Clerk)

Ref		Papers
	Declaration of any pecuniary interests relating to items in the agenda: None	
	Apologies: None	
1	<p>MINUTES OF MONDAY 25th JANUARY 2023</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The minutes, having been agreed by email were accepted. <p>MATTERS ARISING FROM MEETING ON 25th JANUARY 2023</p> <p>NATURE RESERVES</p> <p>Jellyfields - Regarding the large sycamore – The Clerk contacted Dorset Council Tree Officer quote now received for undertaking this work and this is with the F&F sub-committee for approval.</p> <p>Bothenhampton - Regarding DIGS report and the Geology Information Panel. Write to DIGS offering financial support. Clerk confirmed letter sent 16th February 2023 but that there had been no response.</p>	

Graham Styles
Minutes agreed: Chairman

Ref			Papers
	<p>MATTERS ARISING FROM MEETING ON 25th JANUARY 2023 (Cont.)</p> <p>PLAY AREAS</p> <p>John Holt Play Area - Regarding Gate Issue and possible new equipment. The F&F sub-committee approved expenditure of £3,950 for the Kinglade Unit and the quote from KH to mend the gate.</p> <p>Regarding state of picnic tables and benches. (See item 7 below)</p> <p>John Gundry Play Area - Regarding Basketball Net. Not progressed.</p> <p>TREES</p> <p>Walditch Village Green Horse Chestnut - Regarding poor state of health of the tree. The Clerk contacted Dorset Council Tree Officer. Quote now received for undertaking this work and this is with the F&F sub-committee for approval.</p> <p>Sycamore Avenue - Regarding lack of response and action relating to the trees along the Avenue and especially to the letter of 1st November 2022 asking for tree replacements within the conservation area. Letter sent 16th February – (See Item 5 below).</p> <p>Valley View Community Area / Howard Close - Regarding the sycamore that had dropped branches recently. The Clerk contacted Dorset Council Tree Officer. Quote now received for undertaking this work and this is with the F&F sub-committee for approval. Cllr JB reminded those present that as the tree is situated in Jellyfields Nature Reserve, it belongs to Dorset Council and not the Parish Council, therefore we should not be charged.</p>		
1	<p>MAIN BUSINESS</p> <p>Nature Reserves</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Jellyfields Nature Reserve <p>Cllr GS said he had visited the nature reserve on 13th April 2023 and found a large tree had fallen in the undergrowth. It is not blocking the path and not an issue with regards access.</p>		

Ref	MAIN BUSINESS		Papers
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Bothenhampton Nature Reserve <p>Cllr GS referred to the WW2 bunker that had been brought to the Parish Council's attention by a resident. Whilst visiting the site on the 13th April Cllr GS said he looked for the bunker but could not find it, presumably it is covered with overgrowth. There was some discussion as to whether or not the bunker should be exposed or left covered and safe for wildlife eg: bats. In any event, this could be discussed further in the context of the Management Plan once the Nature Reserve transfer to BTC takes place.</p> <p>During his walk on the 13th Cllr Styles noticed that paths in both Reserves are boggy in places, particularly on the main path leading southwards in Bothenhampton Nature Reserve.</p>		
2	<p>John Holt Play Area</p> <p>Cllr GS referred to the latest Inspection Report from the Playground Inspector (KH) and confirmed that the entrance gate has been fixed by KH and the wood preservative has been applied to the basket swing frame by the Lengthsman. Cllr GS also confirmed that after some discussion with neighbouring households a location has been found within the play area for the new play equipment. Delivery date still to be ascertained and Cllr GS to chase.</p> <p>Cllr GS commented that some residents have complained that the stand-alone bench is no longer available in the Play Area (the Inspector deemed the bench as unsafe, and it was removed). Cllr GS said he has asked the Lengthsman to see if a replacement bench can be found (which could then be located in a safer position)</p>		
3	<p>John Gundry Play Area</p> <p>Cllr GS said that the work carried out by Cllr Addis has transformed the John Gundry Play Area, and that the Parish Council should record its thanks for the good work done. Cllr JB said that thanks will be detailed in his Annual Report which will be aired at the Annual Meeting on 15th May 2023.</p> <p>The Inspector (KH) commented that the timber equipment needs preservatives including the benches and gates and that one bench shows signs of decay. (See item 7 below)</p>		
4	<p>Lower Walditch Play Area</p> <p>Nothing to report.</p>		

Ref	MAIN BUSINESS		Papers
5	<p>Trees</p> <p>The Parish Council wrote to the Forestry Commission on 14th April and sent a further two letters on 13th March and on 11th April to James Bennet DC Tree Officer – the latter asking for details of TPOs.</p> <p>A reply was received from the Forestry Commission with a recommendation for us to contact the local authority (Dorset Council). This was surprising as the Parish Council's letter to them described the attempts over the years to engage with both West Dorset District Council and more recently Dorset Council and that very little action and no enforcement had been taken. The Forestry Commission asked for additional information which Cllr JB and a resident of Walditch will work together on – this work is ongoing and when completed will be sent to both Dorset Council and the Forestry Commission.</p> <p>Trees on John Holt Play Area</p> <p>Cllr GS said that one of the two newly planted trees located within the John Holt Play Area (not the Jubilee tree) has been vandalized and is now missing a limb.</p>		
6	<p>Allotments</p> <p>Nothing to report.</p>		
7	<p>Other OSPA Initiatives</p> <p>Replacement of benches within Play Areas and to provide a recommendation to F&F sub-committee meeting on the 5th May 2023.</p> <p>Cllr GS requested that the three bench/table sets at John Holt be replaced in order to help leave the Play Area in a good state when handed over to Bridport Town Council.</p> <p>There was some discussion around the quotes for new benches and tables that the Clerk obtained last year. Cllr GS agreed to approach the companies and ask for updated prices.</p> <p>The Clerk reminded those present that the more benches and tables that are ordered the greater the amount of discount could be leveraged, therefore if John Gundry also required replacements, it would be good to order sets for there too.</p>	Cllr GS	
8	<p>AOB</p> <p>There was no AOB</p>		

Date of the next Open Spaces and Play Areas Sub-Committee Meeting: 24th July 2023 at Ivy House, Bridport or via Zoom, 2pm.

SUMMARY OF AGREED ACTIONS – 24th APRIL 2023

Action	Owner	Page
Regarding picnic benches and tables - approach the companies and ask for updated prices.	Clr GS	4

ITEMS ROLLED OVER – 24th APRIL 2023

Action	Owner	Page
None		

RECOMMENDATIONS REFERRED TO MAIN COMMITTEE – 15th MAY 2023

Item	Page
None	

RECOMMENDATIONS REFERRED TO F & F SUB-COMMITTEE &/OR T T & F SUB-COMMITTEE – 5th May 2023

Item	Page
None	