



Bothenhampton & Walditch  
Parish Council since 1886

**MINUTES OF OPEN SPACES AND PLAY AREAS SUB-COMMITTEE MEETING**  
**22<sup>nd</sup> JANUARY 2024 AT Ivy House, Bridport at 2pm**

<b>Initials:</b>	<b>Invited</b>
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><b>MINUTES OF MONDAY 11<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER 2023</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The minutes, having been agreed by email were accepted.</li> </ul> <p><b>MATTERS ARISING FROM MEETING ON 11<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER 2023</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Regarding <b>Fields in Trust</b> – Check whether a notice or plaque needs to be installed in the four open areas and if so who will provide it. Cllr JB confirmed that he had not received the plaques from FIT. The Clerk to chase FIT to establish whether they have been sent and if so when.</li> <li>• Regarding <b>Outstanding Issues</b> – draw up a list to hand over to BTC in March 2024. This was discussed in item 7 below.</li> </ul>	Clerk	

*Graham Styles*  
Minutes agreed: Chairman

Ref			Papers
1	<p><b>MAIN BUSINESS</b></p> <p><b>Nature Reserves</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Jellyfields Nature Reserve – Cllr GS confirmed that he had visited Jellyfields on 15<sup>th</sup> January and had noted some evidence of recent flooding around the banks of the stream. He said duck boards would be useful in the boggy areas further along the path, near the metal gate on Lower Walditch Lane. No urgent work was identified.</li> <li>● Bothenhampton Nature Reserve (BNR) – Cllr GS confirmed that he had also visited this NR. He noted that the main path up was prone to running water during wet periods. Some of the wooden steps were worn on the steep path up just before it opens opposite the entrance to the reservoir.</li> </ul> <p>Cllr GS recalled the Parish Council's offer last year to DIGS to make a grant towards an information panel for the BNR. Cllr GS to contact Roger Snellgrove (DIGS) to ask what the position is.</p> <p>Cllr GS to contact Dorset Council via the online portal to ask for repairs to the wooden steps in BNR.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Nature Reserves lease and formal transfer from Dorset Council – Cllr GS referred to an email exchange between himself and David Dixon (BTC) regarding the transfer of the NR. DD confirmed that Dorset Council had now offered a 99 year lease to BTC rather than permanent formal transfer. The lease start date is still awaited.</li> </ul>	Cllr GS  Cllr GS	
2	<p><b>John Holt Play Area</b></p> <p>Cllr GS referred to the Play Area Inspection Report received from KH. KH had recommended that the three new picnic tables be tethered. Clerk to contact KH to see if he could carry out this work. Cllr GS confirmed that new goals have gone into the play area.</p>	Clerk	
3	<p><b>John Gundry Play Area</b></p> <p>Cllr GS referred to the Play Area Inspection Report received from KH. KH believed the picnic tables and benches were too bunched and close to the play equipment. Cllr JB said that several councillors or willing volunteers would be required to move the play area furniture as it was very heavy. Councillors referred to the new fence and gate and asked that the Clerk minute their thanks for the work Cllr CA did to arrange this work.</p>		

Ref	MAIN BUSINESS		Papers
4	<p><b>Lower Walditch Play Area</b></p> <p>Cllr GS referred to the Play Area Inspection Report received from KH. The only issue raised was mole activity in the area near play equipment posts. The mole hills here should be removed to prevent the wooden posts from rotting. Cllr GS confirmed that the Lengthsman had repaired the vandalised picnic bench and that the items were now usable; Cllr GS had informed KH.</p> <p>Further to discussion in a separate meeting, it was agreed the Clerk would approach the Lengthsman to see if he would be able to apply preservative to the wooden fittings in all three Play Areas, to ensure all were in good condition before the handover.</p>	Clerk	
5	<p><b>Trees</b></p> <p>There were discussions around the legacy issues especially regarding Sycamore Avenue. Cllr JB confirmed that he had contacted the Forestry Commission who had said that TPO's are Preservation Orders for live trees. When a tree dies it cannot be protected and there is nothing in the rules for it to be replaced. The FC had suggested that villagers contribute to the replacement of trees in the village. This issue appears again in Item 7 below.</p>		
6	<p><b>Allotments</b></p> <p>No further updates but see legacy items at item 7 below.</p>		
7	<p><b>Other OSPA Initiatives</b></p> <p>It was noted that the PC's request to BTC to ensure 'Ringfenced Monies' continue to be retained specifically for the upkeep of play areas and nature reserves is to be discussed at the forthcoming BTC committee meeting on 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2024. It is hoped that the Town Clerk will reply after that meeting.</p> <p>Cllr GS referred to his email of 19<sup>th</sup> January which contained ideas on the legacy issues for hand over.</p> <p>Topics included:</p> <p>Trees, including the newly planted trees at Slades Green and the Jubilee trees. Veteran trees are also important including the situation along Sycamore Avenue which does need continued pressure on Dorset Council and the landowner.</p> <p>Allotments – there is some interest among local residents – BTC should be asked to keep an eye open for suitable sites. Cllr JB referred to the merits of forming a Community Land Trust to enable a swift decision should land become available in Bothenhampton.</p>		

Ref	MAIN BUSINESS		Papers
7	<p><b>Other OSPA Initiatives</b></p> <p>Play Areas – that BTC should undertake regular consultation with local residents. It was acknowledged that the Play Areas will be handed over to BTC in a good state of upkeep and repair.</p> <p>An expert examination of the dry-stone wall alongside the John Holt Play Area would be suggested to check it remains safe and stable. It should also be recommended that regular volunteer groups are formed to remove ivy etc from the stone wall.</p> <p>Nature Reserves – BTC will start implementing management plans later this year, with the involvement of local residents in working parties as necessary.</p> <p>Cllr GS to review his list and incorporate into a document with issues raised at the TT&amp;F – Cllr JB to create one document for onward transmission to BTC.</p>	Cllrs MW/JB/GS	
8	<p><b>AOB</b></p> <p>There was no AOB. Cllr GS thanked his colleagues for their hard work on OSPA matters.</p>		

This is the final OSPA sub-committee to be held prior to the Parish Council's abolition on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024.

#### SUMMARY OF AGREED ACTIONS – 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2024

Action	Owner	Page
Chase FIT to establish whether the plaques have been sent and if so when.	Clerk	1
Information panel for the Bothenhampton Nature Reserve.	Cllr GS	2
Contact Dorset Council via the online portal to ask for duck boards to be placed in the muddy areas of the nature reserves.	Cllr GS	2
John Holt Play Area - picnic tables tethered. Contact KH to arrange.	Clerk	2
Lengthsman to apply preservative to the wooden fittings in all three Play Areas	Clerk	3
Review of legacy issues and tie up in one document after TT&F	Cllrs MW/JB/GS	4