

MINUTES OF MEETING OF AMENITIES SUB-COMMITTEE
20 April 2021
HELD VIRTUALLY USING ZOOM.APP
15:00

Chairman: Cllr Rand (Chair)
Present: Councillors Mr P Hurst, Mr A Watson, Mrs S Cooper
Clerk: Amy White

1. Welcome and apologies

Cllr Rand welcomed everyone to the meeting..

2. Declarations of Interest

None.

3. To Agree Minutes of Previous Meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 10/03/21 were agreed but not signed by the Chairman, Cllr Rand due to Covid restrictions.

4. Actions from previous Meeting

Date	Action	Owner
17/09/20	Cllr Rand to action feedback from BDBC re policies to add to website. Action given to Clerk, move to May meeting	Clerk
17/02/21	Clerk to contact HCC to ask the question of kerb reduction and whose responsibility it is. Actioned. Waiting to hear back.	Clerk
10/03/21	Clerk to contact Scofell to agree the contract of works for 2021/22.	Clerk
10/03/21	Clerk to draft letter of thanks to Sean Early for his continued hard work for the Parish.	
10/03/21	Clerk to contact Gemma Clinch from Hampshire Rangers.	Clerk

5. Parish Field

a. Permissive Path

The all-weather permissive path has been completed and is open to the public. It will bed-in with use.

The new Head Teacher of St Thomas' and Woolton Hill Junior School will formally open the path on Wednesday 29th April at 08:30.

Action: Cllr Rand to contact Jonathan Ashby from Newbury Weekly News with the timing of the formal opening.

Action: Clerk to advertise time and date on Facebook and website.

b. Feedback from the community

The majority of the feedback received on the path has been very positive, particularly regarding the safety of children walking to school.

The boundaries of the field will be confirmed with photos and maps, so that the PC has a record of how the field looks and how the water flows, to make sure boundaries do not change.

The map at the end of the minutes shows the pipe network along Brownies Corner.

- M3 will be cleared of silt to help manage flood events by holding back and storing water
- Ditches at D3 and 4 will be continued to be maintained by the tenant.
- The entrance to P6 will be kept clear.

Action: Clerk to obtain quote for clearing silt from M3 manhole in Brownies Corner

c. Future of the parish field

Most importantly, EWPC wants to protect and preserve the field as a green space (this is also written into the Neighbourhood Plan).

Action: Cllr Watson will assist with writing a statement regarding EWPC's vision of future of the parish field.

A discussion was held on whether there is a role for someone to maintain the field, boundaries and ditches. Currently the tenant maintains this field for a peppercorn rent and EWPC is very happy with the maintenance. Once this tenancy ends, this will be further reviewed.

Parish Field access

Issues identified by residents received by the Clerk:

- People going off the path and using the field as a recreation area
- Dogs going across off lead, off the path, across the field and into residents' gardens
- Dogs urinating and defecating on the field affecting the biodiversity of the field and then the cut hay which is then be used for animal feed
- Cycling etc. along the all-weather path

Solutions:

- Bigger signs will be added at both ends of the field to confirm: only walking on the path, dogs must be on a lead, no bikes.
- Two councillors will take turns to observe the field over the coming weeks, to review use of the path.
- The committee will review closing the field for a time period if it becomes clear that the rules of use are being continually abused.
- CCTV will not be used in the parish field at all. It is only used in the Woolton Hill recreation field and playground due to the risk of vandalism and to protect the play equipment.

Action: Cllr Watson will create wording for the new signs at the end of the field.

Next actions in the field:

- The fencing by the gate at the Trade Street end of the path needs work to ensure it is secure.
- The kerb by the path at Brownies Corner needs to be dropped. [We have kept 1 ton of material from the path to connect to the dropped kerb]. Cllr Dick is continuing to request this with HCC.
- Purchase a new bench(es) for Brownies Corner

Action: Cllr Rand to obtain quote for new benches.

6. Footpaths

Cllr Watson has contacted Gemma Clinch from HCC who will provide new boundary maps. HCC is launching a new Parish Partnership Programme to cooperate with landowners and parish councils to improve access to footpaths. Part of this will allow landowners some access to funds. As a parish EWPC could potentially get £5k to help with the conversion of stiles to gates.

7. Recreation Ground

The Clerk has received a quote from Scofell to lengthen the fencing along from Wellbrook House to the old entrance to Glebe field, as well as cut down an old tree to the stump. This was actioned after a conversation with the owners of Wellbrook House who are experiencing a number of incidents of children climbing over from the recreation ground into their land.

Stump Removal = £250.00+VAT

Removal of the stump by the culvert to a level allowed by the brickwork and surrounding soil. Ecoplug to be drilled into the stump to ensure the stump continues to die off naturally. All resulting logs to be stacked on site ready for removal.

Fencing = £430.54+VAT

Continuation of the deer fencing from the neighbouring property to block access to the adjacent field. Unfortunately, the costs on this job are higher than anticipated as approximately half of that total is due to our suppliers only being able to provide the deer fencing by rolls of 50m.

Gap up hedging by road = £110.00+VAT

Supply and plant 2x two litre holly hedge plants (40/60cm) to gap up pedestrian short cut. These plants will get a good soaking when they are planted but would need continuous watering over the coming weeks to ensure successful bedding in & growth.

It was agreed to approve this quote, subject to full council approval on Monday 24th April.

8. S106 play facilities update

Cllr Rand has had a few more quotes for the Boules Court but these are not consistent or clear so he will clarify and update the committee at the next meeting.

9. Items for next meeting

Standard items.

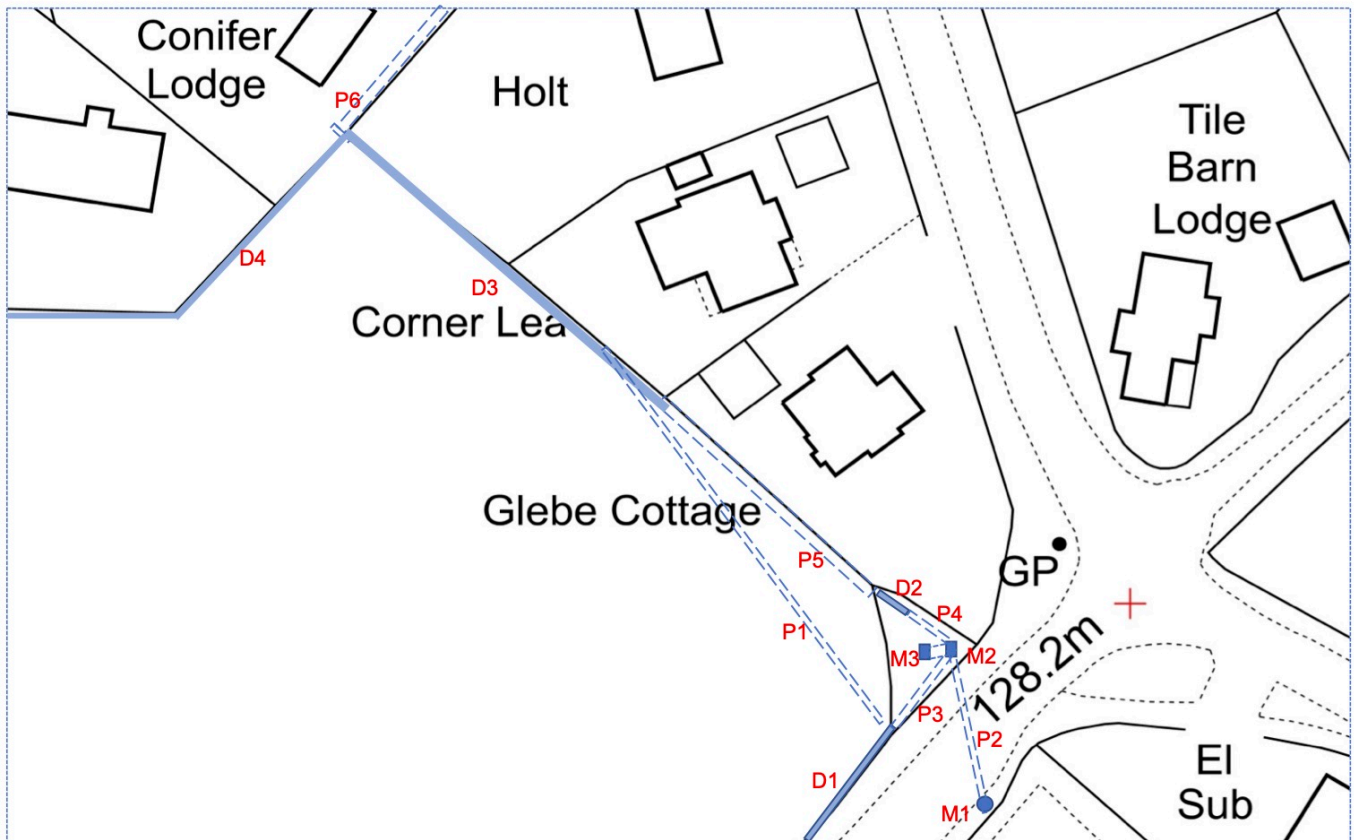
A huge thank you to Councillor Rand for his hard work in seeing the permissive path project through to completion.

Actions

- ❖ **Clerk** to obtain quote for clearing silt from M3 manhole in Brownies Corner
- ❖ Cllr **Rand** to contact Jonathan Ashby from Newbury Weekly News with the timing of the formal opening of the parish field.
- ❖ **Clerk** to advertise time and date of path opening on Facebook and website.
- ❖ Cllr **Watson** will assist with writing a statement regarding EWPC's vision of the future of the parish field
- ❖ Cllr **Watson** will create wording for the new signs at the end of the field.
- ❖ Cllr **Rand** to obtain quote for new benches

Next Full Amenities Meeting: Tuesday 18th May @2:30pm. Venue TBC.

Drainage Pipes, Ditches and Manholes near Brownies Corner



This is an explanation of what is believed to be the drainage system around the Brownies Corner end of the Parish Field.

Key:

D = Ditch

M = Manhole

P = Pipe

Water Flow:

- Water flows down Church Road along D1.
- P3 takes this water to M2.
- Water from M1 also goes to M2.
- Water from M2 empties into a soak M3 which is about 12 foot deep
- When water can no longer flow into M3 from M2 it will flow into P4 and from there into D2 and then along P5 and out into D3.
- P1 is an overflow pipe, which is at a slightly higher level than P3, taking water to D3.
- Water from D3 then flows into P6.
- Water also flows down D4 from a ditch opposite to the Surgery. This then flows into D3 before going into P6.

Issues:

- M3 is full of silt and so doesn't act as a 'soak away'.
- P3 and P4 are blocked to some a significant degree with silt and tree roots.
- The entry to P6 and its pipework is a critical point and needs to be kept clear.

- At times of heavy rainfall water also runs down the Parish Field into D3 by The Holt