

Village Green Working Group Meeting 15 March 2016

Agenda:

- Maintenance of Beech Trees along Eastfield Lane
- Other VG maintenance matters
- Working Parties in March
- Guideline and Checklist for Village Green and Grounds Maintenance

Participants:

- Jim Donahue – PC – WG Chair
- Cormac Neeson of the cricket club
- Gill Goodwin – WOTHabs representative
- Jon Stewart – PC

Apologies:

- Gavin Jones - Whitchurch primary school sports teacher
- Alistair Aitchison of the football club

Held at: 17 Hillside, Hardwick Road

- Maintenance of Beech Tree row along Eastfield Lane
 - We discussed that while WOTHabs pointed out that the row of trees was originally a hedge 40 years ago, many people now consider it to be an important feature of the road leading up to the school.
 - It was agreed that instead of cutting back the large trees with professional tree surgeons, Jon Stewart would remove the smaller trees in between to thin them out. Based on this work, we could assess whether further trimming of the large trees was required in the future.
- Other VG maintenance matters
 - We agreed that Jon could remove the fencing along Eastfield Road – now derelict – as it served no useful purpose. It is thought to be a remnant of the time when the cricket field was private property.
 - Jon also agreed to strim the ‘hill’ mound of dirt by the batting cage to encourage children to play on it.
 - We agreed that Jon can put the new compost heap behind the batting cage.
 - Jim agreed to ask The Clerk what the status was of work Thames water did to see if leaking was still a problem. Depending on the outcome, Cormac offered to ask one of the Cricket team members that work as a plumber to look at more permanent solutions to the problem.

- Working Parties in March
 - Jon Steward is going to confirm when the Working Parties are planned for the VG. He thinks the Cricket Club is planning working parties on the weekends of 19-20 March and 2-3 April. The CC will likely focus on improving the fencing, annual maintenance of the Pavilion, and the wicket.
 - Cormac will coordinate with Alistair of the Football Club to see whether they can join the working parties. It is assumed that the Football club should focus on moving the goals posts to allow for re-seeding and clearing the brambles behind the field.
 - Gill will propose activities that WOTHAbs would like to contribute to a working party. The date of this will be confirmed, but Gill thought it may be over Easter weekend – 26-27 March.
 - We will ask Gavin to see if he can propose an activity for the school children to contribute to annual maintenance of the Village Green.

- Village Green and General Grounds Checklist
 - We reviewed a two page checklist that Jon will use confirm what activities he performs for maintenance of the village grounds on a monthly basis during the growing season. The checklist covers high level guidelines and cutting frequency for the following areas:
 - Village Green (including hedges and boundaries)
 - Maze
 - Muddy lane
 - Jubilee path along Hardwick Road
 - St Marys and St John Church (Jon to check with Rector Clare if St Johns church is included)
 - Recreation Facilities on Manor Road
 - Village Hall Grounds
 - We also review the latest more detailed guidelines Gill provided and no issue were found.