

## **Village Green Working Group Meeting 09 October 2017**

### Participants:

- Jim Donahue – PC – WG Chair
- Cormac Neeson of the cricket club
- Gill Goodwin – WOTHabs representative
- Alistair Aitchison of the football club
- Keith Brooks – PC Chairman

### Apologies:

- Gavin Jones - Whitchurch primary school sports teacher

### Agenda:

- Grass cutting contractor feedback (frequency, schedule, etc.) - Keith/all
- Next working party - all
- Improvements to football field: Standing pipe, dual net location – Allistair
- Beech tree cutting - Gill
- Community Tent – Keith/all
- Update on Pavilion plans Village Green input for the Village Plan – Jim
- AOB

### **Minutes from February Meeting**

Gill requested a change in the minutes from the February Meeting related to the trimming of the Beech Trees from:

Gill said that James Norman had offered to cut these trees for a minimal contribution to his costs.

### **Grass Cutting**

We discussed the need to improve communications between the Cricket Club and the maintenance contractor in relation to the frequency and timing of the cuts. There were certain adult and youth matches that had to be moved due to the grass being too long. The Football Club did not have an issue with the length of the grass as they only use the field for practice.

The proposal is to amend the maintenance contract to require the contractor to provide a schedule for cuts for the full season and have this made available to all parties:

- The Cricket Club Village Green (VG) WG member (currently Cormac) will provide a list of fixtures to the contractor by the beginning of March.
- The contractor will publish a calendar of all 12 planned cuts for the season by the end of March that takes into account the cricket fixtures.
- The schedule will be sent to VG WG members and posted on the village web-site by the parish Council (PC) Supervising Officer (currently Keith).
- In the event of changes to schedules, the contractor will send updates to the schedule at the end of each month.

- The Cricket Club has agreed to fund up to two additional cuts per year if required due to change of growing season. These cuts will be performed by the contractor under the existing Village Maintenance contract. The Cricket Club will reimburse the PC at the end of the season for any additional cuts requested. This would make for a total of 14 cuts per year.
- Requests for additional cuts from the VG WG Cricket representative will be made to PC Supervising Officer in a timely manner. We expect the contract to accommodate these requests if provided with more than a week's notice. Requests to for additional cutting made with less than a week's notice will be on a best effort basis.
- If additional cuts beyond 14 a year are required, the PC and Cricket Club will agree on who pays for them.

## Working Parties

Alistair agreed to organise a working party on January to address the hedge on the eastern boundary of the Car park.

He is planning a further working party in March to re-turf the goals posts. Cost for this were approx. £120 and can be reimbursed in the PC budget.

The Cricket Club is planning their annual working Party in April, and could also help with the Laurel Hedge or other jobs that needed doing. Alistair said the Cricket Club could also help at this time if needed.

Cormac said that the Cricket Club was planning to aerate (Hollow Tine) the field in October.

Description of area	Planned tasks	When to be done	Proposed Working Party
Laurel hedging at car park entrance	Trim top and sides to keep to reasonable and manageable dimensions.	Once a year, in late spring or early summer.	April/May Football/Cricket Club Working Party
Deciduous mixed hedge on eastern boundary of car park and to north of Little Croft	Trim top and sides to fence height. Forward-growing shoots cut back to 1m for neat profile.	Once a year, in dormant period Dec- early March	January Football Club Working Party
Holly hedge at western and northern boundary of car park	Trim top and sides to fence height	Once a year, in April-May.	May Working Party

Outfield on northern boundary	Cut back brambles, nettles and any invasive scrub	Once a year, late autumn	Bramble do not appear to be growing back – may not be needed this year
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### **Improvements to Football Field**

We discussed the improvements since the last meeting that included the standing pipe installation best the football pitch and enabling the net to be rotated to alternate the location of the goal to prevent excessive wear on the grass.

### **Beech Trees**

Gill provided an update on the cutting of the Beech trees. Since the last meeting WOTHabs had made proposal for cutting of the trees to the Parish Council, which was approved. The proposal to the PC was based on James Norman cutting the trees back for little charge. She is now looking at options to have another tree surgeon do the job but there would be expenses involved. WOTHabs will work with the PC to find the final solution and plan. The VG WG members will be notified ahead of time of the cutting plans once they are finalised.

### **Community marquee**

We discussed the idea of the PC funding a community marquee that could be used by various village organisations for event on the Village Green.

Alistair and Cormac said the Cricket and Football Clubs haven't used marquees previously and don't normally have a requirement for this, but may use it if it was available.

Gavin from the school was not present, but it was assumed that the school could make use of a marquee for the Fete and Sports Day.

Marquees seem to fit with future events once a new Pavilion is in place such as weddings or other social events.

Alistair has some experience with maintenance of tents from other community work and said that it was important to look at the costs of renting marquees vs. owning it. Owning it obviously only made sense financially depending on how many times it would be used. He also warned that the maintenance of the marquee would require effort and costs for repair, replacement of lost parts, as well as storage space, and one or more individuals with the skills to erect and maintain it.

### **New Pavilion and future use of the Village Green**

We discussed the location of the new pavilion. It is now is being proposed to be closer to the school towards the eastern side of the VG due to guidelines about

being 9m away from existing trees due to root structure. The exact location of the pavilion will be planning documentation and will be posted on the village web-site in the near future requesting feedback from the village residents.

The PC missed to SODC grant application deadline this year, but plans to apply again next year now that the plan is completed. Once the grant situation is clearer, a fund raising target can be determined.

Jim described some of the plans for development of an updated Village Plan. This activity will be looking at areas that will impact the Village Green including how the community should use the new pavilion, and what type of new facilities may be added for youth or other residents. There will be new groups set up to look at this, but the Village Green WG members should be involved and contribute to this.

### **VG WG Chairman**

Jim said that he will be stepping down and VG WG chairman as he will be focussing on the Village plan Activities. Keith will be taking over as Chairman of the VG WG.