



# EYNSHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Amenities & Estates Committee Meeting  
held at 7.30pm on Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> November 2023  
at Eynsham Village Hall

## MINUTES

**Councillors Present** – Cllr Sue Osborne (Committee Chairman), Cllr Milly Chen, Cllr Ann Partlett, Cllr Beth Partlett, Cllr Carl Rylett.

Also, in Attendance – Clerk to the Council. There were no members of the public present.

**23/AE76 To receive apologies for absence** – Cllr Sue Brown and Cllr Ross Macken.

**23/AE77 To receive Declarations of Interest in agenda items** – None.

**23/AE78 Public Participation** – None.

**23/AE79 Wharf Stream Way**

- (a) To note the landowner's agreement for the permissive section to change to a Public Right of Way and resolve to process an application with Oxfordshire County Council – It was with great pleasure to report that the landowners have agreed for the permissive section of Wharf Stream Way to become a Public Right of Way. It was **RESOLVED** to pursue an application with Oxfordshire County Council for the legal work to commence.
- (b) To consider creation of a community space and agree actions – The landowners have offered an area to the south of The Railway Men (adjacent to the changed route) for community use. Members discussed possible uses including a memorial woodland. It was **RESOLVED** that the Clerk ascertain the size of the land and on what terms the transfer is being offered. Cllr Chen is to undertake research on memorial woodland for discussion at a future meeting.

**23/AE80 Parish Grass Cutting**

- (a) To consider an updated agreement under the Local Government Act 1972 s101 for grass cutting arrangements and resolve whether to approve the revisions – It was **RESOLVED** to approve the revisions.
- (b) To consider grass cutting specifications and agree actions – It was **RESOLVED** for the Council to continue with its existing grass cutting specifications whilst noting that Hazeldene and Wytham View are new areas.
- (c) To resolve whether to bring grass cutting in-house and acquire equipment (with potential grant funding) or to seek quotes from contractors – It was **RESOLVED** for the Council to undertake grass cutting using contractors.
- (d) Committee to agree terms of contract if seeking to use a contractor – It was **RESOLVED** that a contract period of one grass cutting season is pursued. The Council will use the period to compile time and quality data of cuts to help inform potential future in-house grass cutting work and consider additional pilot areas for nature recovery going forward. The Council will reserve the right to terminate a maintenance contract if the cutting quality is not in accordance with the specification. Contractors are to inform us when they are undertaking a cut and take representative photos of that area.

**23/AE81 Parish Council Bin Emptying** – Shield Group's report was noted. It was **RESOLVED** to amend the bin emptying as follows:-

Oxford Road Play Area (2 bins) – from 3 x weekly collection to 1 x weekly collection.

Spareacre Lane (1 bin) – from 1 x weekly collection to 3 x weekly collection.

Fishponds (1 bin) – from 1 x weekly collection to 3 x weekly collection (already approved by the committee).

**23/AE82 Dog Attacks at Oxford Road Playing Field (South)** – Further to the previous agenda item 23/AE60 (12 September), an assessment of the area has been undertaken and it was noted that all access points (except one) have signs advising 'dogs on leads.' (Note: no dogs are permitted on the North Field due to lease requirements).

It was noted there is no central location for dogs to run off leads, however there are many footpaths/areas in the surrounding fields. The Public Right of Way through the South Playing Field allows walkers to exercise their dogs on a lead and links with other Public Right of Ways where dogs can be let off their leads (if appropriate). Dogs off leads not under control cause several problems: (1) they foul the football pitches which is unacceptable and a health hazard, (2) dog waste contaminates the wildflower meadow (southern end of the playing field) as the collected hay cannot be repurposed or sold and (3) there are instances where dogs attack or cause a nuisance to other users of the field which has been recently raised with the Council. It was **RESOLVED** that (1) the Communications Officer publicise the difficulties regarding these issues, (2) the Clerk obtain and display the missing sign and (3) the Deputy Clerk contact West Oxfordshire District Council's Dog Warden to visit and provide support.

**23/AE83 To consider hedge planting proposal at Oxford Road Playing Field (North)** – A proposal to plant a hedge on the north field (western boundary) by the Nature Recovery Network has been received. It was **RESOLVED** to delegate the decision to the Clerk who will seek permission from the landowners for the hedge planting, pursue a Risk Assessment and updated insurance cover (if required). The planting line will be spraymarked ahead of the event for the avoidance of doubt when planting takes place.

**23/AE84 Dovehouse 'Come and Play' Project Working Party** – The appointment of the Working Party was deferred pending known funding streams.

**23/AE85 Eynsham Women's Institute (WI) commemoration tree** – Members considered a request to plant a tree to celebrate the WI's centenary and also to honour the late Queen Elizabeth II. It was **RESOLVED** that a Rowan tree may be planted in the south-western corner of Old Witney Road Play Area in the sapling hedge line.

**23/AE86 Benches at The Square** – Correspondence was considered. It was **RESOLVED** that a new bench is be donated to the Council by the resident, subject to its location being agreed before installation.

**Date of next meeting Tuesday 23 January 2024.**

The meeting closed at 8.47pm.