**OPEN SPACES COMMITTEE**

Minutes of the Open Spaces Committee held on Wednesday 5th July August 2023 at 7.30pm Frensham Parish Council Office

Present: Cllr Scimone, Cllr Billings, Cllr Davis, Cllr Pickering, Cllr Rowlatt, Cllr Rouse, Rachel Audsley- Clerk, Colin Hall

Apologies: Sean Willis

1. Welcome from Chair

Chair welcomed those present.

1. Disclosure of Financial and Other Interests

To receive from Members, in relation to any items included on the agenda for this meeting, disclosure of any interests which are required to be disclosed by Section 28 of the Localism Act 2011, which Frensham Parish Council endorses.

None.

1. Questions from Members of the Public

None.

1. Trees
2. Update of status of current tree works.

Cllr Davis gave an update to advise that all tree works are now completed. A tree survey is due to be undertaken December and any tree works will be identified then.

1. Proposal for planting species and planting timescales for the for Eastern boundary of Hollowdene Rec.

Cllr Billings gave an overview of previous meetings and rationale for decisions and the formal adoption of the Tree Management Policy in line with Waverley Borough Council.

Regarding the seven existing limes, it was agreed by all those present, not to hard pollard this year, but allow to grow to an agreed maximum height of no more than 8m. This will be reviewed after the next tree survey at the end of the year, taking professional advice.

Cllr Billings to take a drone shot of the area planned for planting and the council can consider whether the limes stay and form part of the new planting area or to be removed. Cllr Billings to mark up the area to determine the number of trees for planting, with the final specimens to be agreed in October.

In the interim, Cllr Davis to get costs for the following mature species.

Sorbus majestica

Sorbus Brouwers

Pyrus chanticleer

Acer Queen Elizabeth

Prunus padus

1. To agree basal growth working party and dates

It was agreed that a working party would be required to undertake basal growth removal on the 7 limes along the eastern boundary and some ivy and basal growth along the eastern and southern boundary of Hollowdene.

Another working party to undertake the removal of basal growth around Shortfield Common.

Clerk to contact our contractor for available dates and costs. Cllr Davis to produce a working party scope for volunteers in readiness for the next meeting.

1. To consider tree planting recommendations (previously circulated) for the rest of Hollowdene.

It was agreed the council would look to replace the damaged black walnut in the Eastern corner with another larger specimen with sufficient guard rail to protect from animals and machinery. Cllrs Davis and Billings to cost up for council approval.

The oak along the southern boundary is slowly growing. It was agreed a guard rail would be placed for protection – Cllr Davis to install.

In the last remaining space, it was decided to look to plant either a Querus petraea or a Penduculate Oak.

In place of the failing gingko, it was decided that a liriodendron tulipifera would be an ideal alternative.

Cllr Davis to seek prices for mature species of the above to put forward to council for budgeting purposes.

Colin and Cllr Billings to update planting schedule.

Cllr Scimone presented an idea adopted in other parts of the country for watering tree tags. It was agreed by those present for Cllr Scimone to order some free tags for FPC trees.

1. Shortfield Common Update
2. To consider grass cutting dates for this year.

Cllr Billings gave an overview of why the decision was taken to split the cutting schedule. Cllr Scimone, having reviewed the recommendation from the Surrey Wildlife Trust (SWT), it was agreed this would revert to one cut a year late August/early September with the outer margins left for wildlife over the winter. Clerk to update SCC cutting schedule.

Clerk to notify contractor. Cllr Davis to update the residents who previously attended the meeting of FPC’s decision.

1. To review and implement schedule of works pertaining to Surrey Wildlife Trust (SWT) agreed actions/ownership leads.

Cllr Scimone went through SWT report and recommended actions. These would be included on the calendar going forward.

* It was agreed that the ribwort plantain would be carried out next year.
* Scraping would be undertaken April 2024, with the Clerk to check on insurance purposes for those nearer the road.
* Ulex would be reviewed during the winter and a date be determined.
* Seed collection would be left for nature.
* It was agreed the Cllr Scimone would take seasonal photos to catalogue going forward.
* Gorse and heather would be undertaken Autumn/Wintertime annually. Cllr Scimone to determine the working party timeframes.

Colin Hall to the official status of ‘habitats of principle importance’

1. To collect data to understand the health of the common/fauna and flora surveys and to identify what is already established/ongoing e.g. butterflies and what additional areas need to be considered such as insects, birds and plants.

* Butterfly surveys are undertaken fortnightly, with the longterm scope to look at moths.
* Cllr Scimone to speak to a resident who may be possibly conducting flower survey’s on the common to bring in line with SWT recommendations.

Cllr Scimone to look to create an open document at the council offices for biodiversity to build in the future.

1. Volunteers – how can we engage local people to help with the works/data collection. Agree to poster content for notice board and contact previous volunteers with the intention to form specific working parties/surveys for the common.

Cllr Scimone to produce a small poster for noticeboards and websites seeking volunteers.

Cllrs Rowlatt and Rouse to work on how to engage schools and open dialogue with them going forward.

It was decided to reach out to other community groups and to speak to Dockenfield PC on how their Bealswood Recovery group may extend onto FPC.

Cllr Pickering gave an update on plans for community engagement to evidence base decisions and data recording on databases. Cllr Pickering to feedback at the next meeting on how this can be incorporated with the Open Spaces committee.

1. To progress existing project for the information lectern and memorial bench and appoint project lead to take forward.

Cllrs Scimone and Rouse will take the lectern project forward and will present proposals at the next meeting.

All those present to consider memorial bench ideas and feed back pictures to the Clerk who will create a mood board for sharing.

Longer term projects for consideration, but not limited to are.

* Nature trails
* Owl/bird boxes
* Bug hotels
* Physical map of shortfield common.

1. Calendar Update
2. Litter pick date for Autumn to be agreed and publicised in parish magazine
3. Update calendar with shortfield common works/actions and volunteer working parties. - Clerk

Meeting closed 9.20pm