

Minutes of the Maintenance Committee Meeting of Milton Parish Council held on Monday 16 September 2013 at 7.45pm in the Bowls Pavilion

Present: G Heaney (chair) WD Booth DJ Chamberlin IF May RT Summerfield
The clerk
Cllrs JE Coston (arrived 7:07pm, left at 8:30pm) RJ Farrington (left at 8:30pm) HM Smith
1 member of the public

Absent: J Mowatt M Perkins

1. **Apologies for absence were accepted from:** J Western – work commitment; G Wynne-Jones – personal.
2. **Declarations of interest and dispensations**
 - a) **To receive declarations of interest from councillors on items on the agenda.**
 - b) **To receive written requests for dispensations for disclosable pecuniary interests (if any).**
None received.
 - c) **To grant any requests for dispensation as appropriate.**
GH has been given dispensation for item 6 (Allotments)
3. **Public Participation:** No members of the public wished to speak.
4. **The minutes of the Maintenance committee meeting held on 01 July 2013 were approved.**
5. **Cemetery:**
 - Noted Command Pest Control report (Aug) – rabbits very active - all burrows treated, no mole activity apparent, no wasps seen (a wasps nest was treated on 6th Aug).
 - The family of the late Louise Smith have purchased 6 graves (previous min PC 10/07-13).
 - The son of the late Louise Smith has offered to make a donation for a new seat in the cemetery. To agree position for seat. AGREED to thank Mr Smith for his kind offer and advise that the Parish Council has no plans to install any more seats at present.
 - Graves of Louise Smith and Joe Lee: AGREED to recommend to council:
 - a) allow a double headstone, maximum dimensions 90cms (height) x 150cms (width). Space to be left on the headstone for an inscription for a 2nd burial in adjoining grave.
 - b) allow kerbing around the grave - maximum height 15cms.
 - c) allow flower vases within kerbing – no higher than on existing graves (45cms from bottom of kerb).These recommendations are made for the graves of Louise Smith and Joe Lee only. A plan of the kerbing and headstone, giving details of the inscription and measurements, must be approved by the Parish Council. No further additions to the grave will be permitted.

Green waste at cemetery: delegated to the Clerk to arrange removal of green waste at the cemetery. HMS will see if SCDC will supply a green bin to be positioned by the entrance. Cllrs Coston and Farrington left the meeting after this item.

Action:
Clerk
&HMS

6. Allotments

Noted there are currently 4 people on waiting list for allotments (1 of whom already has an allotment). All allotments rented out.
Rabbit problems (previous min M7/07-13) – update. Frances Cook, College of West Anglia has not yet advised costs for their contractor to treat rabbit holes along the boundary ditch.

Nine tenants had been sent letters asking them to tidy up neglected allotments by 1st September (previous min M7/07-13). Only 1 had not responded to this. AGREED not to renew tenancy for allotment holder who has not responded. Received Allotment Representatives report. AGREED to recommend to council that tenants are asked to remove all conifers/non-fruit trees from all allotments (contrary to tenancy agreement para 5(f) and (i)).
Noted letter received from tenant of allotments E4 & E5 – the conifers have been trimmed back.

Lock: GH to obtain price for chain with lock attached to it from Notcutts Nursery. WDB advised he could arrange for the chain to be welded to the gate.

Action:
GH

2nd entrance to the allotments: AGREED to write to all allotment holders to ask if this entrance should be closed off.

Update on horse grazing (previous min M7/07-13). The field is still vacant. Buchans to cut grass and treat ragwort.

7. Play – update

All repairs from Fenland Leisure Products report identified as urgent by GH, Clerk and Asst Clerk had been done (previous min M8/07-13).

The skier at the Sycamores recreation ground has been taken away for repair.

8. Grass Cutting and General Maintenance

The village sign has been repaired by Paul Capitain.

The hedge on Hawthorn Hedge green area behind 84-92 The Sycamores will be cut back in Oct/Nov by Buchans (previous min M8/03-13).

Following a complaint from Francis Butson & Assoc., management company for 197-213 The Sycamores, felled tree branches at the rear of the car park have been removed. These were identified as a high fire risk during a risk assessment carried out for these properties – cost £160.00 + VAT.

9. Correspondence: none received

10. Date of next meeting – Monday 16th December 2013.

The meeting closed at 8:52 pm

Signed:

Date: