

**Meeting of the Operations Committee
held on Thursday 25th May
at River Bourne Community Farm
MINUTES**

Councillors present: Maskell (Chair), Barker, McDonald, Smith

In attendance: Elder (Operations Officer), Prince (Responsible Financial Officer RFO)

The meeting commenced at 7pm.

0.23.10 Apologies

Apologies had been received from Cllr Vanstone

Resolved: To accept the apologies received.

0.23.11 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

0.23.12 Approval of Minutes of Meeting

Resolved: to approve the minutes of the meeting held on 23rd February 2023

0.23.13 Matters Arising – from minutes

The Ops Officer reported that St Luke's and St Peter's play areas had been signed off and were operational. Arrangements were in hand to have an opening on Wednesday 7th May 2023, subject to confirmation of attendees.

0.23.14 Bishopdown Play Area update

The Ops Officer advised that work would commence on the Sycamore Drive play area in August 2023. The reason for the late start was due to the manufacturing of the play equipment by the contractor Wicksteed.

0.23.15 Land at CHCP _ Devenish Bradshaw Trust

The Ops Officer advised that the Clerk had been in discussion with Devenish Bradshaw Trust (DBT) regarding a lease on a parcel of land at the western end of the Castle Hill Country Park. This parcel of land was formerly owned by Wiltshire Council and sits within the boundary of Salisbury City council. The intention of DBT to manage the land and the terms of the lease were discussed and councillors supported further discussion with DBT to establish the management plans and legal aspects. The RFO advised that any lease agreement would carry a cost and we would need to ensure the terms of the transfer from Wiltshire Council were included.

0.23.16 Parish Environmental Action Group

Cllr Barker provided an update on the new volunteer footpath wardens. They have been trained, must use hand tools only (no power tools) and wear the supplied high visibility jackets. They are dealing with minor littering and will report anything excessive. The next meeting of footpath wardens will be Saturday 27th May. Cllr Barker raised concerns over some residents mowing part of the chalk meadow grassland on Sherbourne Drive.

0.23.17 Operations Policy

The draft Tree management policy was circulated to councillors in advance of the meeting. The Ops Officer drew councillors attention to the draft policy sections including Pruning and High Hedges. Following discussion of the draft policy, councillors were of the opinion that there was a lot of detailed information in the draft policy and that consideration should be given to utilizing a Frequently Asked Question format on the parish council website. The Chair asked that further updates to the draft be circulated in advance of the next meeting to enable councillors to comment.

0.23.18 Officers Report

Tree Survey Report

A review of the recommendations arising from the January 2023 tree survey report was carried out by the Parish Clerk and the Ops Officer. The recommendations have been broken down into specific work packages for completion by a contract arboriculturist and in-house staff for minor works. Work packages include felling of trees, removal of ivy, removal of redundant tree stakes and monitoring of Ash Die Back.

Longhedge

There are five play areas on the Longhedge estate yet to be completed and handed over to the parish council.

- The Campbell Vale is nearing completion, turf has been laid and is bedding in.
- McCudden Grove play equipment has been installed and is awaiting completion of turfing.
- Trigg Green play equipment has been installed but is waiting completion of turfing.
- Ward Grove is yet to commence build.
- Hawker Green is nearing completion, however, proximity to the changing rooms build and the decision on management of the football pitch and facilities will determine when it is likely to be completed and managed by.

Anti-social Behaviour

The parish has witnessed incidents of anti-social behaviour, graffiti and damage to play area equipment, primarily at Old Sarum and Longhedge. The Parish Clerk and Ops Officer have initiated regular meetings with the community policing teams to discuss these types of incidents and measures to reduce ASB.

Obscene and offensive graffiti has been sprayed onto the skating surface of the skate park. Enquiries have been made as to removing the graffiti. Caution has been advised by the skate park installers, Gravity as abrasive or chemical substances may cause damage to the surface. Further investigations into a solution are being made.

Bin Emptying Service

A number of complaints have been received from local residents around the parish that bins are not being emptied and are overflowing. The Operations Officer, during his weekly inspections has also found bins that have not been emptied as per the agreed schedule and on one occasion had to visit and empty a dog waste bin on a Saturday morning. The Parish Clerk and the Ops Officer are in discussion with the service provider to attempt to resolve the problem and to re-establish a reliable bin service.

The meeting closed at 8:30 pm

Next meeting: The next meeting of the Operations Committee will be held on Thursday 31st August 2023 at the Parish Council office, River Bourne Community Farm, Cow Lane, Laverstock.