



St Andrews Parish Council

**Draft Minutes of the Grounds Maintenance Committee Meeting
Held on Wednesday 7th September 2022 at 7:30pm
at Redhouse Community Centre, Frankel Avenue, Swindon**

Councillors Present: Daniel Adams, Sue MacDonald, Paul West and Vince Williams (Chairman)
Officer Present: Emma Sylvester, Clerk and Luke Jones, Grounds Maintenance Manager
Public Present: 0

17. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllr Jake Chandler and Cllr Steve Heyes sent apologies that he will be late.

18. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

None

19. MINUTES

RESOLVED to accept and approve the minutes of the last meeting held on 6th July 2022 as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

20. PUBLIC RECESS

No public present

21. OPEN SPACES

(i) Members received and reviewed the 'Open Space issues' spreadsheet as attached in the minute book. The Chairman reported that it appears the team are getting on top of schedule and wondered if now is the time to look at other little projects. Grounds Maintenance Manager and members to bring list of jobs to next meeting.

Cllr Williams reported that he had contacted the Government regarding the use of red diesel asking why certain activities (sports) could continued to use this type of fuel and local authorities could not. The response received stated that a decision had been taken and confirmed that local authorities could not continue to use red diesel.

Members discussed a request from a local resident to remove the shrub/vegetation on corner of Poachers Way. The Grounds Maintenance Manager reported that he had approached Swindon Borough Council who as the landowner did not give permission. Grounds Maintenance Manager to reply to resident.

Members discussed a request from local resident to move a dog bin at Buscott Close as it was very close to resident's house. **RESOLVED** to move dog bin further up the path as shown in attached map in the Minute Book.

The Grounds Maintenance Manager reported that there was a problem with the side arm and attaching it to the tractor as the little pin at the top was cracked. He explained that this happened last year, and the parish council had to pay for repairs but as it is a repeated issue he believes it is a manufacturing issue and is looking for Lister's to repair for free. Members agreed and requested that if we are with out a side arm to request a loan vehicle is provided free of charge.

- (ii) Members discussed the effectiveness of the earth mounds at Redhouse Land which were installed to deter vehicles accessing the open space at Redhouse. It was reported that during the summer other open spaces in the parish, and a neighbouring parish, were accessed by vehicles and caused a considerable amount of damage. Members agreed that the earth mounds acted as a deterrent and **RESOLVED** to keep the earth mounds in place.

The Grounds Maintenance Manager reported that he will shortly be cutting the wildflowers and leaving the seed heads in place to encourage regrowth of wild flowers next year. Members requested that the Grounds Maintenance Manager writes a social media post to explain to residents what is happening.

- (iii) Following correspondence received from a local resident the committee discussed access on to other open space areas particularly after events of access during the summer. After some discussion it was agreed to pass this to Swindon Borough Council as barriers were required on highways which came under their remit.

22. **MAPPING**

RESOLVED to purchase an online mapping system from Parish Online as an annual cost of £360.

23. **BINS**

The Grounds Maintenance Manager provided quotes for bin restrictors which would prevent litter bins being used for household waste.

RESOLVED

To purchase 6 restrictors from Broxap at a total cost of £72.00 and trial on the bin outside Tesco's in Redhouse.

It was agreed to add to next agenda to review.

24. **WILDFLOWER AREAS AND POLLINATOR PATHWAYS**

The Grounds Maintenance Manager tabled quotes for wildflower seed and binder for the earth mounds at Redhouse Land and wildflower bed at Wallis Drive Park.

RESOLVED

To purchase 2kg and binder at a total cost £200 from Emorsgate

It was agreed for Cllr Williams, Chandler and the Grounds Maintenance Manager to meet to look around the parish for other areas that could be turned into wildflower areas.

25. **COVID ROCK SNAKE**

The Grounds Maintenance Manager reported that residents have requested that a plaque is placed at the head of the covid rock snake. Quotes for a brass plaque were tabled.

RESOLVED

To purchase a brass plaque engraved with the wording as detailed in the document attached in the Minute book from identitytag at a total cost of £52.00

26. TREES

Members discussed the planting of trees in the parish and the possibility of applying for free trees. The Grounds Maintenance Manager said he had a contact at another parish.

RESOLVED

To apply for 3000 trees to be planted in the parish

Grounds Maintenance Manager to mark on plan which areas in the parish could be planted ready for the next meeting.

27. VOLUNTEERING

Members discussed correspondence received from a resident looking to volunteer for the parish council. Members agreed that residents could volunteer under the supervision of the Grounds Maintenance Manager to complete tasks such as litterpicking, removing graffiti and weeding.

28. DEPOT (Standing Item)

The Clerk reported that there was no update.

The meeting closed at 8:40pm.

Chairman _____

Date _____