

**WARMINGTON PARISH COUNCIL**  
Minutes of the 10<sup>th</sup> September 2018  
7.30pm  
In the Village Hall, Warmington.

**1186. ATTENDANCE:** resent: John Atkinson, Cllr Gillian Beeby, Philip Brashaw, Cllr Chris Ellard, Roger Litawski, Derek Rowell, Cllr David Short and Cllr David Strafford (chairman). Officer present: The clerk.

**1187. RECEIVE DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS** – There were no declarations of interests.

**1188.** It was *RESOLVED* to approve the minutes of the Land Management Committee meeting held in January 2018. The minutes were signed.

**1189. RECEIVE QUESTIONS AND STATEMENTS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC:** There was a reminder that the Village Hall Management Committee AGM would be taking place on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> November and all members of the public are encouraged to attend.

**1190. REPORTS, FOR INFORMATION ONLY:**

- Brief report on increased use of Fun field for ‘organised’ events and school sports day. As the school’s expansion has decreased the size of the grassed area at its site, its sports days was held on the Fun Field – now that there are comfort facilities and water available, the field fulfils the school’s needs. Several organised ‘get-togethers’ amongst groups of friends had taken place. The meeting noted that it is pleasing to see the facilities being taken advantage of in this way.

- Play park renovations had been carried out and thanks was given to all involved.

- There was a brief report and thanks extended to all who had helped with the tidy up at the fun field lock up unit, which is now much more organised.

- There was an update on CGM grass-cutting arrangements at fun field, cemetery, churchyard etc, with the change of personnel within that organisation and the new area manager now settled making the way of working less complicated than it had been at the beginning of the contract. David Strafford undertook to instruct the contractors to clear the overgrown area to the north of the churchyard, between the area with headstones and the rectory wall and to ensure the area in front of the war memorial is up to standard, as per the contract, for Remembrance Day in November.

- Autumn hedge cutting and ditch clearing of parish council land: The areas per the contract with CGM should be cut or cleared in the autumn as a matter of course, but David Strafford will remind them. All other watercourses and hedges are the responsibility of the adjoining landowners.

- Allotment report: 3 new allotment taps have been fitted. The school has asked to have an allotment. The will be taken forward to full council for a decision when written application received. The clerk will authorise expenditure for a skip on site, under delegated powers. David Strafford will ask CGM to cut the hedge towards the end of the growing season.

- Pocket park report. The fruit tree pruning demonstration by the Burghley House gardeners was very successful and, with the weather having been ideal, has resulted in a bumper harvest. Damage to some of the trees has become evident, caused by the weight of the apples, but this will be addressed in the autumn. It was agreed that a publicity campaign would go ahead via Five-All magazine and social media to try to recruit some new volunteers for the pocket parks. A need may arise for training for new volunteers.

**1191. ASSET MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET / GRANT EXPENDITURE CONSIDERATIONS:**

a) Anticipated Income and expenditure figures were presented. The figures require ratification but indicate that the direct cost of hiring the fun field is offset by anticipated income. The figures will be verified and monitored going forward. The clerk indicated that there is a substantial indirect cost in addition to the direct costs.

b) Further capital expenditure, detailed for next 3 years: As there are no large projects planned, other than the Awards for All Community Spaces Enhancement £10,000 grant spending, there are no projects to include in anticipated budget considerations for the upcoming 2019/20 precept and budget Governance Committee meetings in October and full council later in the year.

c) Revenue expenditure, detailed for next 3 years: A spreadsheet detailing anticipated revenue costs on maintenance and repair will be forwarded to the clerk, for inclusion in the asset management workbook and circulated to members in due course.

d) The management programme of assets for next 3 years will be included in the same workbook as 1191c.

e) The chairman of the committee undertook to carry out the assessments with the chairman of the Governance Committee. The proposed programme of risk assessment of assets and land, for next 12 months, details what assets should be inspected. Everything could be inspected at the same time, but to make the process less onerous, the 'schedule' spreads the inspection of the sites over the course of a year. The intention would be that each year, the inspection date is moved forward or back a couple of months so that places are assessed at various times of the year to ascertain whether different risks become apparent at different times of the year.

f) It was agreed that, from the Land Management Committee, Cllr Gillian Beeby, Philip Brashaw and Cllr David Trafford would join a working party to investigate the various options and ways forward with regard to the Warmington 'Community Spaces Enhancement' Awards for All grant of £10,000. Proposals will go forward to full council for ratification at a future meeting.

g) There were no proposals for use of S106 money from Working Men's Club site. This will be included on a future agenda once actual building works have commenced. Members will monitor the site and the clerk will liaise with officers at the planning authority to ascertain how procurement of any equipment would be administered.

h) No further grant fund applications are considered necessary at the current time.

#### **1192. FUN FIELD:**

a) Pitch upkeep arrangements:

- Despite strenuous efforts on the part of various people, it has not been possible to categorically clarify the lawfulness of non-trained personnel using herbicides on the fun field. Since FA guidelines advise against using weed killers on touchlines, domestic herbicides state that they are for use on private gardens only and HSE and other official websites suggest all personnel should be suitably trained, volunteers will not be using herbicides in public areas from now on.

- White line fluid has not had herbicide as an additive and will not do so in future. The football clubs / casual users will continue to be responsible for white lining as per licences.

- Watering in times of prolonged dryness: It was recognised that summer 2018 had been a particularly hot and dry one, with records having been broken in terms of temperatures and lack of rainfall nationwide. Committee members were asked to think about possible ways of mitigating the effects of the dry weather in future years. It has been noted that the grass at the fun field had not suffered too much, including the football playing area and the deep cracked surfaces are on the touchlines only. These have been filled with topsoil and once the grass has a chance to recover with the roots 'knitting' the soil together, the cessation of the use of herbicide and hopefully some rain, the problem should right itself. There is very low water pressure at the portacabin which would make spray irrigation non-workable.

b) It was **RESOLVED** to carry forward the 2017/18 season licencing agreement arrangements to 2018/19 season.

c) It was agreed that the possibility of investigating use of mobile/temporary floodlights at the fun field would be taken to the full council. The planning permission for the portacabin changing rooms specifically prohibits their use on the grounds of neighbour amenity. A variation to planning permission would be necessary. [NB - Consultation with users and neighbours is advised].

d) The Land Management Committee (LMC) did not have any proposals for promotion of the field and agreed that this was not a function of the LMC but that the parish council should be promoting the fun field, not the committee.

e) Consider future entire community events:

- A pancake day race event at the fun field is planned for 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2019. This will be a litter pick / village spring clean in the morning, followed by a BYO picnic and then pancake racing, hopefully with teas and coffees and a creperie stall.

- Whole village party – A proposal was suggested to hold a village Christmas party at the village hall for the whole village. The intention is that this would be a day-time event on a weekend, with mulled wine, minced pies and musicians. Promotion would be via flyers, posters and social media. Cllr Gillian Beeby will lead on this and will advise the clerk her printer ink and leaflet printing paper requirements – the clerk will buy via the council’s usual stationery suppliers.

f) It was agreed that the ornamental hedges on both sides of the entrance part of Dexter Way (i.e. where there are no houses, only the fun field and the pony paddock) would be added to the CGM contract.

g) Noticeboards – There was an update on grant progress – confirmation of allocation of funds is expected any time. It was agreed to delegate sourcing suitable noticeboards / suppliers to the clerk for ratification at a future meeting.

**1193. VILLAGE AMENITY GRASS-CUTTING AND MAINTENANCE:** The matter of a litter pick had been dealt with under item 1192e.

**1194. CEMETERY** – One quote had been received in response to the invitation to quote. It was agreed to recommend this to full council for approval and virement of funds to the relevant cost point.

**1195. Inspection of play equipment:** The monthly inspection of the play area and fun field had been circulated in advance of the meeting. The only matter of note was the tension of the zip wire. It was agreed that due to the urgency of this matter, it could be dealt with under the clerk’s delegated authority.

**1196. ALLOTMENTS:**

a) Warmington School had written a request to the allotment co-ordinator for an allotment garden - parts of the interim head’s letter were read out. It was agreed to recommend this request and proposal to the meeting of the parish council on October 8th.

**1197. MATTERS TO RECOMMEND TO FULL COUNCIL:**

a) The committee agreed it would like to have an additional meeting of the LMC in May or June. As this would effectively entail reversing a decision made by the council (per minute 1170i), the recommendation will go to full council for re-consideration.

b) Renaming of Orchard Pocket Park and the Fun Field was not discussed.

**1198. FIREWORKS EVENT:** It was agreed that a briefing meeting prior to the actual event would take place in the changing rooms at the fun field to ensure that all matters are clear to all parties, so that the requirements of the parish council’s insurers and Elton Estate’s licence are adhered to. Any alterations to the plans or agreed m.o. will be advised following the briefing meeting.

**1199. FLAG POLE PLAQUE** – It was agreed to procure a plaque acknowledging the donations from the people of Warmington and the Royal British Legion enabling the purchase of the pole.

**FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS** were not discussed.

The chairman declared the meeting closed at 10.11pm

**DATE OF NEXT MEETING: 14<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2019 7.30PM, WARMINGTON VILLAGE HALL**

**Approved by Warmington Parish Council:**

**Signature of Chairman  
of following meeting:**

**Date 14<sup>th</sup> January 2019**

