



STOCKTON HEATH PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE LAND ASSETS COMMITTEE HELD ON THURSDAY, 6 SEPTEMBER 2018, AT 6.30PM, meeting at ACKERS PIT and continuing via MILL LANE to STOCKTON HEATH LIBRARY, ALEXANDRA ROAD, STOCKTON HEATH.

Present: Councillors H J Dutton (chair), A M Fell (for Ackers Pit and Mill Lane Inspection only), C E Jones and P Todd (from Mill Lane)

Attending: Mrs. L Jacob (Clerk); A Young; Mike Monks (Warrington Anglers Association) (for Ackers Pit Inspection only)

Site Inspection – site inspections of both Ackers Pit and Mill Lane took place before the formal part of the meeting. Boundaries and entrances, pathways, bridges, benches, bins and signage were inspected and notes made regarding remedial works deemed necessary.

L18/013 Apologies

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr S L Dean and Frank Lythgoe (Warrington Anglers Association).

L18/014 Budget

Payments made and monies remaining across the budget headings over which the Land Assets Committee has oversight were noted. Ackers Pit – payments to date are £807.50 with an agreed future expenditure of £7,498 for path works and clearing the stream entrance, which leaves a balance of £6,237.98.

Mill Lane – payments to date are £641.49, leaving a balance of £5120.40 with an upcoming expenditure on bridge repairs necessary. A budget of £1000 is available for Red Lane Allotments.

L18/015 Action Plan for 2019/20

1. Ackers Pit

The following actions, for the remainder of Financial Year 2018/2019, were discussed and it was

Recommended that:

a bat-watching event be organised for October half-term;
bat and bird box kits be purchased and a community event will be organised for February half-term to build the boxes;
a double bin, to replace the current bin, be purchased for installation at the weir;
a bench be purchased (see Minute L018/019);
the seven benches be treated with wood preserver this autumn, weather permitting.
two trees be purchased and planted between the established poplar trees on the Ackers Lane side;
funding to come from the remaining balance in the Ackers Pit budget.

Recommended that the following are written into an action plan and form part of the proposed budget for Financial Year 2019/2020:

another event for building bat and bird boxes to take place in February 2020;

a new wooden bridge to be commissioned to replace the current bridge which spans the small and large pit;
another tree thinning exercise to be undertaken prior to the 2019/2020 nesting season;
up to 10 more trees to be purchased and planted according to the TEP Management Plan;
an ecologist visit to be arranged to advise on wildlife present and inform the management of habitats to support and encourage wildlife.

2. Mill Lane QEII Diamond Jubilee Field

The following actions, for the remainder of Financial Year 2018/2019, were discussed and it was

Recommended that:

a bench be purchased (see Minute L018/017);
an area be cleared to create a new wildflower area.

Recommended that the following are written into an action plan and form part of the proposed budget for Financial Year 2019/2020:

the area of land closest to the Scout Hut be subject to a plan to cleared it of weeds and the potential to install woodland-style children's activity equipment be investigated;
the wildflower area be maintained according to the appropriate management plan;
an area of woodland be cultivated for the creation of a native bluebell wood;
a summer community picnic event be held;
the five waste bins be replaced.

L18/016

Ackers Pit

1. Updates: Path renewal works will begin within a few weeks. David Webster and Sons Ltd have been contracted at a cost of £7,498.
2. The report on wildfowl was discussed. The Chair thanked Anita Young for the research that had been undertaken to produce the report. **It was agreed** that contact will be made with a member of the Warrington Nature Conservation Forum to seek advice; that the clerk will establish if the RSPCA is subject to legislation covering Freedom of Information requests; that the Environment Agency will be asked to analyse water and silt samples.
3. The item on planting of spring bulbs was deferred.
4. The statement by the Swan Sanctuary on the feeding of bread to wildfowl was discussed and it was agreed that the current sign at Ackers Pit requesting that bread is not a preferred foodstuff will remain in place.

L18/017

Mill Lane

1. The report on the repair of the wooden bridge across the brook at Mill Lane/Chadwick Avenue was discussed and it was

Recommended that

the quotation for £970 submitted by Neil Drinkwater for the renewal of only the handrail should be accepted, with a further sum of £500

available for the replacement of any footboards on the bridge found to need replacing as the handrail is under repair.

2. The proposal for a memorial bench for a long-standing and devoted past councillor and Freeman of the Parish was discussed and it was

Recommended that

a bench be purchased and placed on an area close to the footpath running from Parkgate Road to Willow Drive

3. The purchase of replacement trees for the brook behind Chadwick Avenue was deferred.

4. The provision of wildflower planting to the field margins was dealt with under Minute L18/015.2

L18/018

Red Lane Allotments

1. Updates: Stockton Heath Allotments Association will be writing to the Parish Council soon regarding the lease document.

2. The matter of vehicular access by residents of Birchdale Road to the allotment site was discussed and it was

Recommended that

In future, only pedestrian access will be granted to residents of Birchdale Road, in order to provide protection to the pathways and underground drainage system on the allotment site.

L18/019

Memorial Benches at Ackers Pit

1. The proposal for a memorial bench for a long-standing and devoted past councillor and Freeman of the Parish was discussed and it was

Recommended that

A bench be purchased and installed on the Mill Lane side of the pit, close to the lane leading to Swanage Close.

2. A request received from a member of the public for a memorial bench at Ackers Pit was discussed and it was

Recommended that

permission be granted, with the bench chosen to be of a style in keeping with benches already installed at the Pit and the location to be on the Mill Lane side of the weir.

L18/020

Reports from attendance at outside groups

There were no reports from attendance at outside bodies.

L18/021

Matters for noting not on the agenda

There were no additional matters raised.

L18/022

Date and Time of Next Meeting

TBC

The meeting closed at 9.45pm