



Minutes of the Parks & Open Spaces Committee meeting of East Hunsbury Parish Council held on **Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> November 2023** at 6.30pm at Hunsbury Library.

Present: Cllr B Burnell, Cllr M Campbell, Cllr C Douglas, Cllr R Firman, and Cllr D Lewis

Also present: Mrs C Holgate (Clerk), 8 members of the public

Item no	
PSC23/021	<b>Apologies for absence</b> Apologies were received from Cllr Moore (unwell).
PSC23/022	<b>To receive and approve for signature the minutes of the Parks and Open Spaces Committee meeting held on Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> July 2023</b> The minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 4 <sup>th</sup> July 2023 (copies of which being folios 9-10 having been previously circulated) were approved as a true record.
PSC23/023	<b>Declarations of Interest</b> No declarations of interest were received.
PSC23/024	<b>Street Furniture and play equipment</b> a) Members noted the works being done by the Maintenance Officer in accordance with the play equipment surveys and risk assessments. It was noted that play equipment is checked at least weekly and a record is kept. b) It was noted that a bench for Grangewood Park has been ordered following the donation from a resident.
PSC23/025	<b>No Mow May</b> <b>RESOLVED</b> that the council would not participate in No Mow May this year.
PSC23/026	<b>Public Spaces Protection Order</b> It was noted that the Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) was now in place across the Northampton area, including parks and open spaces in East Hunsbury. The PSPO puts in place restrictions and requirements which apply to all public open space across West Northants, and additional requirements that apply to specific parts of villages and towns, including East Hunsbury. WNC will supply and install signage, and once the signs are in place incidents and breaches can be reported by email to <a href="mailto:envcrime@westnorthants.gov.uk">envcrime@westnorthants.gov.uk</a> More information is available at <a href="#">Public Spaces Protection Orders (PSPOs)   West Northamptonshire Council (westnorthants.gov.uk)</a>
PSC23/027	<b>Trees</b> a) The contents of the latest tree survey were noted. b) <b>RESOLVED</b> to carry out all high risk works with immediate effect, and medium risk works where it is sensible and cost effective to do so. c) Members noted the suggestions received for species and locations of new trees. It was agreed that indigenous trees would be preferred, and trees would be replaced like for like where possible. Advice would be sought from the Wildlife Trust. d) An update on the criminal damage to trees in Penvale Park was received. Clarification is being sought from WNC about removal of the hedgerow. e) The draft letter to residents with boundaries onto parks and open spaces was <b>RESOLVED</b> . f) There was a discussion about maintenance of the community orchard, in particular the cages which preclude management of the trees. <b>Action: Cllr Douglas to look at this issue and organise a group of councillors to assist.</b>

	<p>g) <b>RESOLVED</b> to apply for a community tree pack from the Woodland Trust for replanting the hedgerow in Penvale Park, near Harrier Park, and for planting as per the LENS plan.</p> <p>Cllr Campbell has spoken with Rebecca Butler regarding the trees on the A45. National Highways will not replace the trees that they planted which died due to lack of maintenance. National Highways will not give permission to the parish council to plant trees due to the location and no funding being available for maintenance.</p>
PSC23/028	<p><b>Paths</b></p> <p>a) Members noted the complaint received regarding the footpath access into Grangewood Park from Peregrine Place. It was agreed that access is an issue particularly for wheelchair or mobility scooter users. <b>Action: Clerk to get a quote for a half and half gate.</b></p> <p>b) <b>RESOLVED</b> to carry out a parks and open spaces footpath audit to identify paths requiring reinstatement or repair.</p>
PSC23/029	<p><b>Flood Mitigation – Penvale Park</b></p> <p>a) Quotes for the flood mitigation works were considered and it was agreed to accept Quote 1.</p> <p>b) It was agreed that the start date for the flood mitigation works should be as soon as possible depending on how long the works will take. It was acknowledged that this is not the ideal time of year to carry out the works, however it was important to give residents affected by flooding piece of mind.</p> <p>c) Members of the public were in attendance to raise the issue with water in Penn Gardens with the council. It was noted that Anglian Water will be investigating any issues with their assets at the top of the park, alongside Harrier Park. The water behind Penn Gardens is likely to be underground springs, and a meeting has been arranged with the RAIN team and the Environment Agency. Residents affected are happy to be involved.</p>
PSC23/030	<p><b>Park Management Plans</b></p> <p>a) The draft Management Plan for Blacky More open space was approved.</p> <p>b) The Management Plans for Grangewood Park and Penvale Park were reviewed. No comments or changes.</p>
PSC23/031	<p><b>Update on community engagement in parks and open spaces</b></p> <p>Links between RAIN and the local schools have been facilitated. Potential for community engagement activities to be considered with the RAIN team.</p> <p>Gardening Buddies – volunteer gardeners were joined by East Hunsbury Primary gardening club to plant bulbs at Hunsbury Library.</p> <p>Potential to receive more litter picking equipment from Veolia – weekend community litter picks have been requested by residents, and councillors are asked to lead on those. Dates will be set, and councillors informed.</p>
	<p><b>Close</b></p> <p>The meeting closed at 7.44pm</p> <p>The Clerk later received apologies from Cllr Draper (personal commitment), and Cllr Perry (personal commitment).</p> <p>The next meeting of the Parks and Open Spaces Committee will be held on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> March 2024.</p>