

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE IRON ACTON PARISH COUNCIL MEADOW'S COMMITTEE

Date: Friday, 2 November 2012

Time: 1630 hours

Location: The Parish Meadow

Attendees:

Parish Meadow's Committee Members: Chris Heal (Chairman)
Lynne Blanchard
Peter Huish
Bob Sheppard
Andy Tillotson

Iron Acton Parish Councillors: Peter Bellis
Bob Lomas

Iron Acton Residents: Peter Foote (Church Cottage, High Street - Chairman of Acton Aid)
Sue and Tony Pullen (Brookby House, High Street - property adjacent to Parish Meadow)
Sandra and Roger Tovey (Sea Harvest, High Street - property adjacent to Parish Meadow)

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

The public participation session began with an explanation of what had arisen so far. Namely that Acton Aid had approached the Parish Council Meadow's Committee with an offer to provide a footpath, at an approximate distance of 1-1.5 meters inside the perimeter, around the circumference of the children's play area. The initial suggestion was for a membrane base with wood chip surfacing on top. The offer included the provision of materials and implementation.

The Chairman now invited an open discussion of the offer and for any concerns, issues or observations to be raised for consideration. He invited those residents whose properties bordered the Parish Meadow to make any comments they wished.

The residents explained they did not wish to appear NIMBYs and were not in opposition to the footpath but would like to explain some of their concerns in the hope that these could be taken into consideration and alleviating action taken when plans were formulated:

Noise can currently be a problem. An assurance was given that the proposed footpath would not mean the removal of any hedges or trees that currently aid some noise absorption. A huge increase in numbers was not envisaged, the aim was to increase the enjoyment of existing young visitors. This subject would be kept in mind when any decisions were made.

An aside to the above comment led to an action for the see saw to be oiled to stop squeaking.

Intrusion into properties: Mrs Pullen explained that both children and dogs had managed to penetrate their property as the existing boundary fencing was in a poor condition. Mr Sheppard suggested that a letter might be written by Mrs Pullen to the Parish Council Clerk outlining her concerns and suggesting a way forward.

Drinking parties: There had been some incidents of groups of youths congregating in the Parish Meadow and residents can feel threatened. It was felt important that any changes to the play area, or to the wider Meadow environment, should not increase any enclave type environments where this would increase the likelihood of such gatherings occurring.

It was requested that the residents whose properties bordered the Parish Meadow be kept informed of any work to be undertaken and of any agenda items for future meetings. The Parish Meadow's Committee was happy to agree to this request.

The Chairman then invited any further comments:

It was clarified that although no trees or bushes would be removed in the children's play area some trimming might be required.

It was also agreed to confirm that the suggested path would run around the entire circumference of the children's play area.

The Parish Meadow's Committee needs to be in possession of a copy of the latest ROSPA report.

There will need to be a balance between visibility of the area and the needs of the community.

Any spoil from the creation of the path to be put into a mound - the location of the mound is yet to be determined.

1 APOLOGIES

No apologies had been submitted.

2 DECLARATION OF INTEREST

Peter Huish: is a member of Acton Aid and therefore has a non pecuniary interest in item 3.
Andy Tillotson: is a member of Acton Aid and therefore has a non-pecuniary interest in item 3.

Continued

3 ACTON AID PROPOSAL:

The following proposal was put before those present for consideration:

The creation of a continuous loop of hard surface all the way around the children's play area with the specification to be agreed with the Parish Meadow's Committee.

Proposed: Chris Heal
Seconded: Bob Sheppard
Conclusion: This was agreed by everyone present.

End