

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF IRON ACTON PARISH COUNCIL (Monday, 3 June 2013)

The meeting of the Parish Meadow's Committee was held in the Marshall Room commencing at 7.30 pm

Parish Meadow's Committee Members: Cllrs Chris Heal (Chairman), Peter Huish (Vice Chairman), Lynne Blanchard and Bob Sheppard.

Parish Council Members: Cllrs Pete Bellis, Bob Lomas and Dave Taylor.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

No members of the public were present.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr Andrew Tillotson and Mrs Jo Wright.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

These had been approved at the full council meeting on Monday, 20 May 2013.

MAINTENANCE WITHIN THE PARISH MEADOW

The major item since the last meeting (on 22 April) had been the spraying of several areas to begin to reduce the level of non required plants.

The chairman explained that 4 different substances would be used at various times throughout the summer. Each substance would specifically target a different problem; for example the first spraying would affect ground ivy and nettles, once the ground ivy and nettles were tackled this would allow ground elder to begin to take hold and therefore it was important for a different substance to be sprayed several weeks later to control the ground elder and so on.

The whole meadow would not be dealt with in one go. It was acknowledged and accepted that many bugs require nettles (and the other plants) therefore there will always be areas of nettles, etc retained within the meadow.

The grass seed planted either side of the bridge had begun to shoot and, with the recent rain, growth should be steady and sustained..

The stones had yet to be removed from the stream. This would happen when conditions allow.

It was agreed to tackle any trees mentioned within the tree survey and covered by the planning application particularly where it could be argued that health and safety issues were evident.

Ash trees can be removed in the summer and thorn trees removed in September – both could then be used by Acton Aid at their bonfire and fireworks event. Neither variety has trees of substance but very spindly saplings that will cause greater problems if allowed to develop further. The willow tree that has diverged into 5 separate branches (and is in the area where Sea Harvest adjoins the meadow) could also be included in this category.

Regarding other trees/branches that need to be removed the committee is to consider inviting members of the community who, with proper training in H&S issues and adequate supervision, could remove trees etc thus leaving the area clean and tidy and then, in recompense for the work, take the wood for their own or their neighbours' personal use. If this route is pursued an item will be placed in Focal Poyntz to allow everyone an equal opportunity. This was proposed by Cllr Heal and seconded by Cllr Sheppard.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS' REPORTS

Bob Sheppard commented that he had visited several times during the half term holidays and there had been very little use of the meadows by children and their families.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The Clerk to be asked to move the location of the intermediate planning and the Parish Meadow's meetings to the Parish Hall as this venue was closer to the Parish Meadow. Also consideration to be given to the number of planning applications and the start times of the meetings to be set accordingly.

Monday, 1 July 2013 at 7.00 pm in the Parish Hall

There being no other business the meeting concluded at approx. 7.50 pm.