



Weldon Parish Council

Minutes of Parish Maintenance Working Party Meeting held on Monday 25th September 2023

Councillors Present	John Cooke, Peter Dowsett, Colin Shepard (Chair), Anton Vickers
Also Present	Nigel Cox, Dick Priem and Sue Cook (Clerk)

- PMC.416** Apologies had been received from Mrs Langford which was accepted.
- PMC.417** No declarations of interest were raised
- PMC.418** The minutes of the meeting held on 24th July were approved.
- PMC.419** The following work has been carried out since the last meeting
 The 4th meeting of the Weldon in Bloom group has taken place with the next meeting arranged for Monday 23rd October at the Cricket Club at 6.30pm. The planters were all weeded in early August. Contact has continued with Andy Leighton (Kier Customer and Stakeholder Manager) concerning the Oundle Road footpath. Once again there has been slippage on the completion date for the work. The firm commitment to dig out and carry out any resurfacing needed before the new school opened was not adhered to. I was advised by Andy on the 21st September that they 'hoped to complete the work within the next 2 weeks' and that he would provide me with a firm date as soon as he had one. The bulbs, plants and wildflower seed for autumn planting have all been ordered and delivered. The Himalayan Balsam has again been removed from the southern arm of the Willowbrook. Following our meeting with George Brassington, the Clerk has applied for permission to prune some of the trees in The Leys. Quotes have been obtained for the work and that of Lloyd Greenwood approved by Full Council. The mowing of the grassed areas for which the PC is responsible has continued. Cllr Shepard attended a course on Village Greens. Along with Andy Haynes (Chair Cricket Club) and Graham Stray I met with Kathryn Docherty from the Probation Service to discuss work that might be undertaken at the Cricket Club and on the Village Green by Community Payback.
- PMC.420** Land Registry – No further action has taken place.
- PMC.421** Weldon in Bloom -The next meeting is on Monday 23rd October in the Cricket Club. The planting schedule is attached to these minutes.
- PMC.422** Watering Plan -. The pump still has to be purchased, no urgency now due to the time of year.
- PMC.423** Hills & Hollows - No further progress on the Site Specific Drawings, Cllr Dowsett has a meeting on Friday 29th with the developers of Rockingham Gateway and will ask if they can help with the drawings. Cllr Shepard to contact Mr Sansom to make the broken branch safe when he next cuts.
- PMC.424** Information board The Leys and the Pocket Park - has been installed with positive reaction from residents.
- PMC.425** Nature Recovery / Parish reWilding - Cllr Shepard will be submitting the grant application by Friday 29th. If successful the Parish Council will be reimbursed the purchases on production of the invoices.
- PMC.426** Tasks for the Caretaker -
 Cut back the basal growth on the Lime trees in the Pocket Park to the trees' main trunk prior to chipping (delay until after end September due to possible bird nesting). Collect the rubbish and litter in The Hills & Hollows (including the old water trough) into a single pile ready for removal from site. (Will need to be delayed until the late autumn as much of what needs to be removed is obscured by vegetation). Shred the growth removed and other twigs and branches already cut and piled up in the Pocket



Weldon Parish Council

Park. Cut back the basal growth on one of the trees on the piece of land opposite the barbers. Continue with grass cutting in the village. Refurbish Stamford Road bench and reinstall it when the work is completed. Monitor the state of the Gandy Field and carry out any necessary work to keep it in a tidy state. Empty the litter bin in the Pocket Park. Lay replacement paving slabs on The Leys side of the footbridge into the Pocket Park. Estimate quantity of Hammerite paint needed to paint Village Green railings

Other Possible Tasks

Paint all of the metal benches for which we are responsible when the weather permits.

Tasks in conjunction with Weldon in Bloom volunteers

Mow the Pocket Park and rake up the cut vegetation. Trim / prune the lavender in the flower beds and carry out any necessary weeding. Prune the roses in the old beds on the Village Green and redefine the beds by removing the grass that has encroached. Basal tree growth also needs pruning. Clear ground on Triangle for new flower bed. (Note – subject to PC approval). Fork over ground around the tank and on The Triangle ready for wildflower seed. Plant spring bulbs. Plant out Wallflowers in late October. Plant wildflower seed in Late October. Purchase and plant 3 dozen winter pansies in troughs on Village Green railings at approx. cost £20 -£25 (Note – subject to PC approval)

PMC.427 Report from Tree Warden – covered in PMC.419

PMC.428 Report from Footpath Warden – Oundle Road footpath is included in item **PMC.419**. Photos and locations are needed for any other problems so they can be reported on Fix my Street.

PMC.429 Sponsorship - Cllr Shepard is hoping that the Parish Council will purchase troughs to be placed under the new Notice Boards and dig a bed at the High Street end of the Triangle with a view to getting sponsorship for them, at a proposed fee of £250. The piece for Weldon Wide will mention competitions for the Best Hanging Basket, Best Front Garden and Wacky Planter along with sponsorship for the planters.'

PMC.430 Future Agenda Items

a) Budget for 2024/25

PMC.431 Date of next Meeting was agreed for Monday 30th October starting at 18:30 via Zoom

This being all the business Cllr Shepard closed the meeting at 19:45



Weldon Parish Council

Planting Schedule – Weldon Flower Beds and Borders

Month	Action	Notes
February	Plant seeds for summer bedding under glass	Need seed trays and John Innes number 1 compost
Late March	Prick out seedlings	Need John Innes number 2 compost and pricking out trays or pots
April	Dig up Russian Comfrey plants in Pocket Park as they appear.	This will be an ongoing task to eradicate this invasive alien.
April - May	Sow Larkspur and Nasturtium directly into beds	
Late May	Plant out Summer Bedding	Need moisture control compost for troughs that are not self-watering. Need slow-release fertilizer for other beds.
May – June	Sow Wallflowers in outdoor seedbeds	Need fertilizer, Thin out when large enough to handle
September	Mow and rake up cut vegetation in meadow areas in the Pocket Park and The Leys.	
October	Trim/prune established lavender and similar shrubs. Plant out Wallflowers into beds.	
Late October	Plant wildflower seed	Plant in cleared ground
October – November	Plant Spring bulbs. Plant any new perennial shrubs	
December – January	Carry out any necessary tree and hedge pruning.	Will need permissions if major work is required in the Conservation Area or if TPO's in place.