



# Weldon Parish Council

**Minutes of Parish Maintenance Working Party Meeting held on Monday 30th October 2023**

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

- PMC.431** **Apologies had been received from Mrs Langford and Mr Simon Green** which were accepted.
- PMC.432** No **declarations of interest** were raised
- PMC.433** **The minutes of the meeting held on 25th September** were approved.
- PMC.434** Items from the **budget** were dealt with one by one and Cllr Shepard agreed to amend as recommended by the members. The Clerk will submit the amended budget to the finance committee on Wednesday 22nd November with a view to the budget as whole being approved at the December Full Council Meeting. It was suggested that some of the mowing equipment will need replacing as they are coming near to the end of their life.
- PMC.435** **The following work has been carried out since the last meeting**  
The planters have all been weeded. The self-watering ones have been planted with snowdrops and crocus. The wooden ones on The Triangle and by East Crescent been planted with daffodils and wallflowers. The Rainbow ones have been variously planted with daffodils and alliums. The troughs by the tank have been planted with pansies and crocus. The 2 previously overgrown beds on the Village Green have been dug out and planted with a mix of crocus, alliums and wallflowers. A miniature buddleia has also been planted in each. Some of the trees on the Village Green have been pruned to remove dead branches. Contact was made with Andy Leighton (Kier Customer and Stakeholder Manager) regarding the fact that the hedge alongside the Kettering Road footpath in Weldon village had not been cut at the time the hedge from the village boundary towards Corby was cut. It has subsequently been cut. The Triangle has been planted with additional daffodils and the area under the group of trees planted with English bluebells. The mowing of the grassed areas for which the PC is responsible has continued. Some of the water-meadow area in the Pocket Park has been mown and the grass raked into piles. Grant application for a brushwood mower, garden forks, hay rakes, puddling clay and willow whips was made to Nene Rivers Trust. A decision is expected in about 2 weeks.
- PMC.436** **Land Registry** –Paperwork has been submitted.
- PMC.437** **Weldon in Bloom** -The next meeting is on Monday 13th November in the Cricket Club.
- PMC.438** **Hills & Hollows** - Mr Scott has asked for copies of the current drawings.
- PMC.439** **Nature Recovery / Parish reWilding** - The grant application has been submitted..
- PMC.440** **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. 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 Park. Cut back the basal growth on one of the trees on the piece of land opposite the hairdressers Continue with grass cutting in the village if still needed 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



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to keep it in a tidy state. 8) Empty the litterbin 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. Litter-pick Kettering Road from Londis to the pedestrian entry gate to Weldon Woodland Park and remove the branches that have recently fallen from the trees that are lying alongside the footpath. Continue with pruning / removing dead wood from trees on Village Green. Repair wooden footbridge across the pond outlet stream in the Pocket Park (One sleeper was lost due to latest flooding and the other is unseated. Cost to replace the missing sleeper approx. £32 + Vat. If concreted into position to prevent recurrence total cost would be double). Leaf – blow Church Walk and other footpaths as needed.

## **Other Possible Tasks**

Paint all of the metal benches for which we are responsible when the weather permits. Repair pond dam in Pocket Park if grant funding is approved. (Meeting for grant approval is on 9 th November).

## **Tasks in conjunction with Weldon in Bloom volunteers**

Mow the Pocket Park and rake up the cut vegetation. 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 wildflower seed in late October. Purchase 12 bags of compost, - (some are needed for winter mulch). Purchase and plant red and orange tulip bulbs in the rainbow bed opposite The George. (expected cost £10 - £12)

**PMC.441 Report from Tree Warden** – Nothing new to add

**PMC.442 Report from Footpath Warden** – Oundle Road footpath has been repaired however there are still some trip hazards. It was agreed to purchase gravel to lay at the bottom of the Oundle Road/Church Street Jitty as it is filling up with mud.

**PMC.443 Sponsorship** - Following from the distribution of a letter from the Levelling Up Minister time was spent considering offering to purchase the Rookery if a) Full Council agrees, b) The landowner agrees and c) Funding can be approved. It was also suggested that Cllr Shepard make contact with a Parish Council who have purchased a wooded area via the Levelling Up Fund.

**PMC.444 Date of next Meeting was agreed for Monday 27th November starting at 18:30 via Zoom**

**This being all the business Cllr Shepard closed the meeting at 19:50**



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## 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.