

**MINUTES OF THE OPEN SPACES MEETING OF ECKINGTON PARISH COUNCIL HELD
VIRTUALLY ON TUESDAY 14 NOVEMBER 2023**

PRESENT Councillor Wheelhouse (Chairman)

Councillors: Archer, Clegg, J Kenyon, Landall, Musson and Renwick

Others – E Smith (Clerk) and R Hill (Civic and Cemetery Manager)

3 members of the public

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451/23 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr Boyce
Cllr Dye

452/23 VARIATION IN THE ORDER OF BUSINESS

No variations

453/23 DECLARATION OF MEMBERS INTERESTS

No declarations of interest

454/23 PUBLIC SPEAKING

A member of the public spoke about Idas play area field, pump track and NEDDC grant funding towards Lansbury play area.

455/23 CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS

No confidential matters

456/23 MINUTES OF THE OPEN SPACES MEETING

RESOLVED received and approved as a true record Minutes 405/23 – 450/23 of the Open Spaces Meeting held on 25 July 2023.

457/23 CEMETERY SITE MEETING NOTES 13 NOVEMBER 2023

RESOLVED noted meeting notes circulated.

458/23 BENCH PLAN AND REQUESTS

RESOLVED noted where current benches are located.

RECOMMEND approval of three bench requests using 2 old style benches (top of ashes section and new section) and a new style bench (in memorial garden).

459/23 NEW TREES WITHIN THE CEMETERY

RESOLVED deferred to the next meeting.

460/23 TREE CONTRACTOR SUGGESTION REGARDING DECLINING TREES

Clerk circulated images of the trees with Ash die back.

RESOLVED Clerk to send information of trees to DCC for tree planting scheme.

461/23 TREES/HEDGE BETWEEN OLD AND NEW SECTION IN THE CEMETERY

RECOMMEND Clerk to contact tree contractor for quotation for removal of beech hedge and leave the lime trees in situ. Clerk to ask contractor if they will wood chip the removed beech hedge.

462/23 CEMETERY FENCING

RECOMMEND the fence is tidied up along the top of the Cemetery towards the automated gates. Remove any mesh and add wooden fence slats and cut back the hedge.

463/23 MEMORIAL GARDEN/WALL

RESOLVED deferred to the next meeting.

464/23 DESIGN OF NEW SUGGESTED BENCHES FOR CEMETERY

Cemetery Manager has received a complaint from a member of the public regarding the new style bench.

RECOMMEND to purchase the old style bench until an alternative is agreed. Cemetery Manager to source alternatives for the next meeting to discuss.

465/23 ACCUMULATED WOOD PILE

RECOMMEND grave digging contractor to remove soil from this heap when new graves are dug out.

466/23 CEMETERY STAFF TO MOW OLD SECTION FROM NEXT SEASON

RECOMMEND to approve Cemetery staff will undertake the additional mowing from next season. To approve purchase of a 24" mower for cutting.

467/23 IDAS PLAYING FIELD – LEARNERS TRUST PLANS

RESOLVED Clerk to resend plans for the Idas Road playing field to the Learners Trust.

RECOMMEND request from Eckington Spaces for a pump track on this site not to be included in any plans, other areas to be looked into for a pump track.

468/23 RIDGEWAY PLAYAREA FENCING

RESOLVED Cllr Wheelhouse and handymen will replace rotten fence posts.

469/23 DAMAGE TO SWING SEATS AT GOLDEN BALL, RENISHAW

RESOLVED approved removal of swing seats until Spring 2024.

470/23 WARREN CRESCENT PLAY AREA SURFACING

Clerk met with contractor and they stated this would be an expensive job to dig out some of the hard surfacing (stoney surface) and replace with soil and seeds. Access is difficult onto the site to undertake the works with a machine.

RECOMMEND not to change the current surfacing as the ground is not feasible to be replaced. Brambles to be cut back and hedge maintained.

471/23 SIGNAGE FOR PLAY AREAS

RECOMMEND approved signage for all access points to play areas. Deputy Clerk to arrange purchase and installation on existing posts.

472/23 ANNUAL PLAY AREA INSPECTION REPORT

Clerk circulated the play area inspection report. The handymen have dealt with the most urgent elements on the report and are monitoring the others for deterioration.

RESOLVED noted.

473/23 ALLOTMENT REPORT

RESOLVED noted.

RECOMMEND Monthly site meetings are arranged between the Deputy Clerk and Wardens. Wardens are to report any matters to the Deputy Clerk between monthly meetings. Future allotment reports to include state of individual allotment plots to ascertain who has received first, second, third letter so Council are aware of who is not utilising their allotment site correctly.

474/23 FIRES AT ALLOTMENT SITES – CHAIRMANS SUGGESTION

Clerk circulated complaint from resident of allotment site due to fires and parking issues.
RECOMMEND that no Parish allotment sites hold fires.

475/23 ALLOTMENT MEETING MINUTES 11 SEPTEMBER 2023

RESOLVED to arrange an action day at the Cemetery Friends of Eckington Cemetery to arrange with Landmarks. This will be to tidy the flower beds, litter picking and other Cemetery matters.

476/23 VOLUNTEERING – LANDMARKS EMAIL

Clerk reported that the new equipment had been installed at Ash Crescent on 6 July 2023.

RESOLVED noted.

477/23 CCTV AT THE BACK OF THE CHEMIST

Clerk awaiting quotation from contractor regarding installation of CCTV at the rear of the Chemist.

RESOLVED noted.

478/23 BOLLARDS AND DROP KERB REQUEST DCC

Cllr Renwick stated that the bollard will be reinstalled by Derbyshire County Council between the book makers and the Chemist. Bollards have been removed between Civic Centre and Lloyds bank building.

RESOLVED noted.

479/23 MARSH LANE PLAYING FIELDS – DOG BIN REQUESTS

RECOMMEND Clerk to request North East Derbyshire District Council remove the bin from the bus shelter and place onto the entrance gate posts to Marsh Lane field. Clerk to purchase signs for the play area.

480/23 GEER LANE, FORD – DOG BIN REQUESTS

RESOLVED Clerk to chase North East Derbyshire District Council on the installation of a litter bin in this location.

481/23 GRASS VERGE AT BUTCHERS ARMS – REPLACEMENT BOLLARDS

RECOMMEND Clerk write to Derbyshire County Council Highways to request bollards are reinstalled at the corner.

482/23 HANGING BASKETS FOR 2024

RESOLVED Cllr Wheelhouse and Clerk to review the hanging baskets and bring back any recommendations for additional hanging baskets to Full Council.

483/23 MOLE ISSUES AT MARSH LANE WAR MEMORIAL

North East Derbyshire District Council stated they do not undertake control/treatment of moles within a highway verge.

RESOLVED noted as this is not land owned or maintained by the Parish Council.

484/23 DEFIBRILLATOR AT RAVENCAR SHOPS

RESOLVED Cllr Wheelhouse to send contact details of property owner to the Clerk. Clerk to ascertain if a Defibrillator could be installed at this site.

485/23 LITTER PICKING CHAMPIONS – CLLR ARCHER INITIATIVE

Cllr Archer would like to start a litter picking campaign for each street. 20 Litter pickers and waste bag holders have been purchased so far to start the campaign. Social media campaign to be launched to ask for volunteers to help with this initiative.

RESOLVED Cllr Archer and Social Media and Marketing Officer to start the project.

486/23 FUTURE PROJECTS

No further projects to discuss.

487/23 OPEN SPACES ACTION LOG

RESOLVED noted.

The Meeting closed at 8.13pm

Signed

Chairman

Date 16 January 2024