**POS Meeting Minutes**

**Monday 12th May 2023 at 10.00 am (Zoom)**

1. **Attendees** – Cllrs A Watley (Chairman), K Parkinson, H Cannon, K Bennett, K Wood, T Lockhart,. R Keeble, T Hinton, R Nelson (RFO).
2. **Apologies for absence** – Cllrs V Dean, N McCarthy, T Thomas, S Clapham (Parish Clerk),
3. **Matters Arising** – Removal of damaged seat at Ted Marriage – Tom (Total Landscapes) has added this to his existing list of work.
4. **Recreation Areas**

**Overall:** Paul Tucker (Broadmead Leisure**)** has confirmed that he will be at Mill Lane on Wednesday 17th May from 8.00 a.m. Cllr Lockhart and possibly Cllr Watley will meet with Mr Tucker at 10.00 a.m. that morning. Mrs Nelson will inform Mr Tucker accordingly. **Action: TL/RFO**

**Walter Hobbs:**

1. Meeting to be held with Mr Tucker in due course.
2. Cllr Keeble had held a meeting with Blackmore Youth Football Club earlier in the week and he explained that they still wished to be responsible for cutting the main Walter Hobbs field during the whole football season, from end August until end May each year. Cllr Keeble had spoken to Mr Pharoah at M D Landscapes as this would remove a significant part of their contract with the Council. However, the edges of the field, around play areas, banjo end of overflow carpark etc. would still need cutting and Mr Pharoah is happy just to do this work, plus any instances when the football club did not cut the main field. His view is that the club will probably lose interest after a while and he will resume the cutting.
3. Cllr Keeble reported that the football club had also asked if there would be any financial support available from the Parish Council, to assist them in the purchase of the major sanding of the pitch, due to be done in June. Following discussion, it was agreed that a contribution of £1,000 would be recommended for approval at the Parish Council meeting on 18th May 23. As in previous years, as the Council holds the land, the invoice is to be addressed to the Parish Council who will pay and reclaim the VAT element. **Action: RFO for agenda**
4. The placing of an order for a new rocker (to replace the existing equipment) at a quoted price from Broadmead of £700 was approved. **Action: RFO**

**Ted Marriage** – no items for discussion.

**Mill Lane:**

1. Missing finger from finger post – Mrs Nelson has continued to chase re a date when the fingerpost can be completed, without success. Cllr Lockhart has sent a sharp text message to Deckanon and a response is awaited. **Action: TL**
2. Mr Tucker (Broadmead) has advised that the tyre swing which has been “installed” at Mill Lane should be removed. It is not a recognized piece of equipment for public use and being put in the Council’s jurisdiction, a public area, it could make the Council responsible for any injuries caused through using the tyre. It is hoped that Mr Tucker might be able to remove the tyre when at Mill Lane on 17th May and Mrs Nelson will give him advance notice of this request. **Action: RFO**
3. New seesaw – Broadmead has quoted for a new seesaw as follows:-

Supply SSB800 see saw springy £1400.00

Installation of SSB800, with 4 grass mats £750.00 Total - £2,150

The above installation price is valid regardless of who supplies the equipment itself. NOTE: This compares with Sutclilffe’s revised quotation of £2,359 which doesn’t include grass mats.

OR

Supply and install a Fahr Industry spring see saw installed with grass mat,

wear pad and removal of soil £1600

It was agreed that the Fahr quotation looked a much better proposition and Cllr Lockhart will discuss with Mr Tucker on 17th May to ensure that it meets the specification of the Sutcliffe seesaw. **Action: TL**

**Millennium Park:**

Cllr Keeble reported that extension of the overflow carpark is becoming more critical. He has a contact for suitable ground material and will be progressing this project, obtaining quotes as necessary. **Action: RK**

Mrs Nelson reported a request to use the Millennium Park on 12th August 23 for a small wedding “drinks reception”. Cllr Cannon will liaise directly with the wedding organizer and will charge the usual nominal fee (£10 per hour) for use of the field which will be remitted to the Parish Council in due course, She will stress a preference for plastic “glasses” to avoid any potential accidents. It was noted that the Sports & Social Club is supplying the bar for this event. **Action: HC**

**Blackmore Village Hall**:

Following Mr Lucas’s presentation regarding this project at the Village Hall, the Clerk and RFO have investigated the requirements for obtaining a PWLB loan. Should this proceed, legal agreements would need to be completed. Notes of the joint meeting on 24th April to further discuss this project had been circulated and Cllr Keeble confirmed that it appears that money would still be forthcoming from Mr Lucas to assist with the retrofit of the Sports Arena lighting. The quotes so far received for roof repairs have been much higher than expected. The meeting again reiterated its previous decision that a 3G football pitch is not wanted (either on or close to the complex) as it would have a major and detrimental effect on the whole village.

1. **Allotment Garden**

Car Park – the project to repair and relay the carpark area, following damage by vandals, is still in hand. **Action: AW**

In this regard, Cllr Watley reported that there had been a further incident when youths road track bikes on the adjacent farmer’s field. This had been reported to the police and they attended, followed by a further Countryside team who confiscated the bikes and spoke to the parents. It is hoped that this might discourage such vandalism in future.

**General Items:**

6. **Safety Inspections: -** Mrs Nelson had circulated confirmation from ROSPA that they will be undertaking the annual safety inspections at all three play areas in May. Broadmead Leisure has confirmed that they are qualified safety inspectors and their quotation for regular safety checks, including minor maintenance, will be discussed with Mr Tucker at one of his future visits.

7 **Land Grab, ‘Service Lane’** – The Scouts had kindly planted plants on this area in Service Lane and it was felt that the planting of two or three small trees in that same location would be a good idea. Cllr Keeble will investigate options with the nursery.

**Action: RK**

Mrs Nelson confirmed that a letter is ready to be delivered to St Lawrence Gardens’ residents and it was agreed that a similar letter needs to be sent to those householders in Green Lane. Mrs Nelson will prepare this letter and have copies ready for distribution at the next PC meeting. **Action: RFO**

8 **RTA- Blackmore roundabout damage** – As above, Deckanon has been chased regarding a new Fingerpost. Cllrs Keeble and Wood will investigate the purchase of a suitable Victorian water pump feature. **Action: Cllrs RK/KW**

9 **New planters on Library Green** –Most of the planters are still looking reasonable although the ones on Watson’s Corner triangle are in a very poor state. Unfortunately, Matthews will not be able to do the summer planting until June. Mrs Nelson explained that Matthews continues to struggle with lack of staff and high levels of “walk-in” business. Their plants and normal service have been very good over the past few years and it was therefore agreed that the situation will continue to be monitored for another year.

10 **New waste bin on Elkins Green (Chelmsford Road)** – Mrs Nelson has spoken to Mrs Driver (who had offered to pay for a new seat on Elkins Green). Earlier emails appear to have ended up in Mrs Driver’s junk mail but she now has all the relevant details and will revert to Mrs Nelson in due course. The purchase of a new litter bin is deferred until a decision made about the new seat. In the meantime, Mrs Nelson will try and find out if the Parish Council will have to pay for litter collection from this location. **Action: RFO**

12 **Upkeep of Wyatts Green Telephone Box Library** - Mrs Nelson has contacted the recommended painter/decorator who is happy to undertake this work. She will suggest that he meets with Cllr McCarthy after he returns from holiday. **Action: RFO**

**AOB**

**Telephone box in village** – BT to be contacted as the box is in a poor state of repair. **Action: RFO**

Close of Meeting: There being no other business the meeting ended at 11.15 am

Date of Next Meeting: Monday 12th June 2023 at 10.00am – Zoom