**Minutes from Parks Subcommittee Meeting 06.03.23**

**Attendance:** Cllr L. Rowlands, Cllr H. Maurice-Jones, Cllr A. Parrington, Cllr N. Roberts, Cllr M Gledhill, Cllr A Stevens, Ms W Pace and the Clerk.

Apologies – Cllr M. Woods.

Cllr A Parrington began the meeting by reflecting on how there had been a big increase in the crossover between the Parks committee and Events committee resulting in an excessive work load put on the Chair of these committees. He insisted there needed to be a fairer split between the two and that it should be spread over more of the council members. This will be discussed further at the upcoming AGM. **Action Clerk – to add to May Agenda**

*Toilet Block:*

Cllr L Rowlands reported that all that could be moved from the block was gone or in dry areas, following the burst pipe. She reported that the plumber had been to fix the damage and that the water system had now been drained due to the forecast of bad weather over the next few days. Cllr N Roberts queried if the equipment had been audited for what was still being used. Cllr L Rowlands informed it had not yet as storage needed to be thought about to coincide with future plans for the Hwb building. Cllr L Rowland and Ms W Pace had looked into metal sheds, which were reported as most theft proof around and supported by WCBC council using them. A discussion was had about potentially splitting the park warden and street wardens’ items into 2 sheds in different places. A smaller shed at Rossett for Parks Warden and a larger for Street Warden at Mountain View. There was thought that if a commercial bin was placed at the Hwb, then the current council trailer may no longer be needed and so this would result in possibly only needing one shed.

*Rossett Park:*

Cllr L Rowlands and Ms Pace had met with the arboriculturalist with regards to some planting when the Hwb was built. Ms Pace suggested the potential for some grants to help towards this. Cllr L Rowlands agreed and supplied the Clerk with some reading material for potential grants. Ms Pace suggested getting a quote for the works they wanted doing in order to estimate what amount of grant they would need to apply for. There was a discussion about the hedge row along the Chester Road side of the park and what potential could be planted there. Trees were generally thought to be more of a problem in the hedgerow due to cutting around them. Cllr L Rowlands returned to the metal sheds and quoted some prices for a general search she’d done. Cllr Maurice-Jones mentioned that they were better not to site the sheds until the Hwb was built and temporary storage had been offered by Cllr A Parrington at the Golden Lion once the toilet block was demolished. Cllr A Stevens suggested that the trailer could be locked to an anchor and chain or lockable bollard by the Hwb, therefore eliminating the need for a second shed. This was left undecided and continuous with the progression of the Hwb.

Cllr N Roberts confirmed that he was able to get a group of volunteers for painting the park railings with a provisional date set at 7th June. Cllr L Rowlands suggested that the Clerk get back in touch with community services and ask that they also help with the project by sanding down and prepping the railings prior to this date. **Action – Clerk to contact Community Services with more details for the project**

Cllr L Rowlands requested the help of some volunteers to go through the paints still in the toilet block. Ms Pace and Cllr M Gledhill both offered.

*Greenfields:*

In a previous conversation with Ms Ceri Peacock, it had been suggested to Cllr L Rowlands to use weed killer that didn’t contain glyphosate. This was discussed and agreed that some should be purchased to see results with this product.

*Mountain View:*

Cllr L Rowland reported on how the working party had progressed at the previous weekend. They had endeavoured to rectify the wet pour area that had come away from the grass edge by lifting, scraping out the larger stones and then filing the remaining gaps with bark. This seemed to have worked for now but she raised concern that the wet pour may need to be removed entirely and bark laid in the future. The Clerk had confirmed that WCBC were going to remove the rotten wood edging and dispose of it correctly for RCC which had been a concern as the wood was pressurised and so needed disposing of correctly. This had been confirmed at the original quote price received back in November and was hopefully happening next week.

*Scarecrow Festival:*

Cllr A Parrington had completed the poster for the Scarecrow Festival ad to go in the Essentials Mag. This would be sent off by March 10th. Everyone agreed it and were happy with the design. The councillors then discussed the points around thae village they would ask local groups to provide scarecrows for. The areas agreed were Rossett Welcome Sign, Rossett Park, Co-op, Griffin Corner, Burton Weir Corner, Lavister Sign, The Hwb and Station Road with the groups being (HRT group, RCC, the Co-op Ms Antrobus, the Cadets, Lavister Vets, Darland Divas WI and the Scouts/Cubs). These would all be judged along with the entries and were eligible to win a prize (excluding RCC’s). Cllr L Rowlands decided that the poster should include the Clerks email address as a form of entering and also that forms could be picked up from the Golden Lion. **Action - A Parrington to add details to poster and then send to Clerk.** It was decided that the Councils scarecrow would be a generic royal scarecrow and would be erected a few days before the start of the festival. Cllr A Parrington agreed to do the trail map and the Clerk was to print of A3 copies of the poster and laminate to go around the village. **Action – Clerk/Cllr A Parrington to buy A3 laminator and pouches.**

*Picnic in the Park:*

Cllr L Rowlands confirmed the date as 17th June and time was agreed as 1-4pm. There was a discussion about the caterers for the event and it was proposed that as it was a fundraising event for the Hwb, that the Hwb should be seen to be paying for the catering. Cllr A Parrington was happy to provide some gazebos, the BBQ and gas and could assist in the acquisition of the food through Hydes Brewery. Some thought needed to be given to this and so it was decided that this would go to a Hwb Committee meeting. Cllr L Rowlands suggested hiring the games as from the Jubilee Park Event last year, which was agreed, as was the tug of war competition. It was also agreed to invite the Cadets again to help out. Cllr L Rowlands informed she would speak to Cwtch about any involvement from them and it was suggested asking the Co-op for a small donation towards some children’s prizes for some of the games. It was also discussed about providing a space for the community café to have tea/biscuits and not having the usual Friday sessions before. Cllr L Rowlands suggested putting together a poster for the May edition of the Essentials Mag for this and that was agreed. **Action – Cllr A Parrington to design poster for this**

*Village Barrels:*

Cllr H Maurice-Jones reported on the barrels on the roundabout (B5445/5102) needed some attention, in particular repainting and some of the top soil taken out and replenished before replanting next bulbs. She queried if the council would like an effort made to get this done before the Coronation, which they agreed. It was also agreed to go with red, white and blue colours. It was also reported the centre one planter was looking past its best and needed lifting out and potentially replacing. There was a discussion about shifting and rearranging a few barrels around the village, in particular at the Lavister sign. The work on the barrels and planting was arranged for mid-April.

*Jubilee Plaque:*

The plaque was unable to be placed by the tree at the weekend due to not having an appropriate point to attach it to. Cllr A Stevens suggested a mesh that the plaque could be attached to. Cllr M Gledhill suggested wooden pegs and a wooden plaque. Cllr L Rowlands insisted it needed to be secured to some wood and so it was agreed a site visit was needed to properly plan.

Cllr L Rowlands had come across some brass plaques with names on put away in the toilet block. She believed they were going to be put around points in the village. It was suggested that they were given Cllr R Shepherd as he was on the council when they were initially decided upon. **Action – Clerk to add to Aprils Agenda**

*The Hwb:*

Ms Pace requested that the parks committee support the Hwb committee in drafting up a plan for putting together the enclosed toddler play area in the park. This was to be built by the Hwb building in place of the older children’s play apparatus, which would then need to be replaced elsewhere in the park. It was agreed RCC would help look for a rough quote in order to project any possible funding options.

*Park Warden:*

The Clerk announced that the Park Warden had handed in his notice and would be finishing his employment with RCC by the end of April. The Clerk would be putting together an advert for the position by Friday with a closing date of 31st March. The position could then be filled by mid-April with any necessary hand-over. The Parks Committee wanted to note thanks to Ron for his work as Park Warden. **Action – Clerk to produce job vacancy advert and post in relevant places**

Cllr A Parrington wanted to also minute his thanks to Cllr L Rowlands on all her hard work towards both the Parks and Events Committee work, insisting she had again gone above and beyond for RCC.

The meeting ended.