

**Up Hatherley Parish Council: Minutes of a Parish Council Meeting, held virtually via Zoom on Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> August 2020, at 7.30 pm.**

**1164 Members Present**

Chair: S. Bamford; also present, P. Worsley, D. Willcox, J. Wells, R. Whyborn, D. Young, A. Houlton, R. Johnes, J Furley, and A. Bamford

**Also, in Attendance:** Clerk Kathryn Oakey, and one parishioner.

**1165 Welcome**

The Chair welcomed all present to the virtual meeting of the parish council.

**1166 Apologies for absence**

B. Wilcox, N. Holden, A. Ponting, S. Gutteridge and S. Hodges

**1167 Declaration of Members' Interests**

None were declared

**1168 Footpaths and Open Spaces**

Since the last meeting a number of on-site open spaces meetings have taken place involving members of the Parish Council, the police and officers from the borough council. Where possible residents and users views have also been obtained. Following these site visits the Chair sent around an email summarising the outcome and making recommendations. The purpose of this meeting was to discuss this and agree actions / funding in advance of the next meeting in September. Three key areas of the parish were under review, Caernarvon Park, Cheriton Park and Broad Oak Way and each is discussed in turn:

1. Caernarvon Park:

Representatives from the borough council are going to cost up some improvements and additions to play equipment in the park. From the site visits it is clear that more could be achieved if the parish council were to make a contribution to these planned improvements. Currently the borough council has set aside £40,000 for the works and the Chair recommended we contribute £5,000 on top.

A discussion took place around this and it was agreed we would need to see the plans to be able to fully decide our contribution as we would want to know what is being refurbished / replaced and ideally would like our contribution to be put towards new equipment.

The drainage problems at the site were discussed, however it is unlikely that the borough council money is for anything other than the play equipment. Some type of surface covering could be included as part of our contribution so it is important that we understand what the £40,000 is buying and what our top up could add.

The hedges at the front and side of the park were discussed during the onsite visit and since then the front hedge has been cut. The side hedges are untidy and could do with clearing out however this is outside of the scope of the work the borough council currently have planned. In addition the path leading from the park to Long Mynd is in a poor state and could do with

resurfacing, again not currently part of the planned works but longer term objective possibly to be included on the Highways plans with the county council.

2. Cheriton Park:

The wooded area behind Morrisons is valued by residents and dog walkers however a fire pit has been dug and anti social behaviour is common in the area. Morrisons are coming forward with a planning application to alter the back of the store, which should make it difficult for arson involving materials such pallets and waste bins. The PCSO's are liaising with Fire Protection to see if there are any other measures that could be taken to reduce the possibility of arson. The pay area was also discussed and although there are no plans by the borough council to change this it was agreed that it could do with another piece of play equipment for smaller children.

Cllr A Bamford suggested we liaise with Morrisons around a 50/50 scheme whereby we contribute half with them to improve the area including tidying up and filling in the fire pit.

3. Broad Oak Park:

It is not easy to see into the open spaces in Broad Oak Way and during the site visit the borough council were asked to remove / reduce the scrub at the front of the site so that the park is clearly visible and welcoming from Caernarvon Road.

The wooded area would benefit from selective thinning and lifting of the trees and reduction of scrub areas around the edges, again to improve its quality as an amenity for residents rather than a hideout for anti social behaviour. It was suggested that the nettle area could be enhanced with wild flower seed.

There is also a hedge between a row of houses and the open space that needs to be tidied up and reduced in height, however residents views would be needed before any work is carried out on this.

It was suggested that a volunteer group is needed on an on going basis to keep this area up together and therefore the Chair will laisie with the Hatherley Park to see how that is run, the Clerk will also make enquiries with other parishes on whether they employ anyone to run these sorts of groups.

The Chair suggested that the parish council contribute £5,000 to this work using the sum that was agreed in January (minute 1083) for the targeted / planned youth activities which would have been held in the Summer.

4. Summary:

Cllr A. Bamford reminded the meeting that a number of years ago a resident made a complaint about the level of reserves that the parish council held as an unringfenced pot, and at the time a commitment was made to reduce these reserves. As a result we could afford to be generous for these schemes. It would be good to have a pot for ongoing maintenance issues that are no longer carried out routinely by the borough council.

The Chair asked for proposals on the amount that we would like to contribute however members present felt that we would need to see what £40,000 was buying to know what we should contribute. Cllr A Bamford suggested we could afford up to £20,000, however others felt

that only £10,000 should be allocated towards Caernarvon Park otherwise there may be an expectation from the borough council that we subsidise the works. The Chair suggested a letter be sent to the residents especially in Broad Oak Way, and to include a sum would be ideal.

It was proposed by the Chair that £10,000 be allocated to Caernarvon Park on the understanding that we see the plans and have an input into them, and that our allocation goes towards new equipment and surfacing. All were in agreement.

**1169 Questions from members of the public**

The member of the parish present did not have any questions however did raise an issue with the area behind Morrisons becoming very muddy when it rains.

**1170 Any Other Business**

The PCSO's have been patrolling the Caernarvon Court shops which has reduced the anti social behaviour in the area. The Chair noted that they had been very helpful and had attended the site meetings in the parish which is good news. Cllr Young reported that they had also been in attendance at the schools.

Cllr A. Bamford informed the meeting that the new school had been approved so it is likely works will start soon. No update on the highways issues for the site have been received so this will be raised at the next meeting with Highways later this month.

**1171 Next Meeting**

This will be 1<sup>st</sup> September, either virtually or as normal in the hall.

..... 1 Sept 2020  
Chair