

NORTHILL PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE HIGHWAYS AND OPEN SPACES COMMITTEE MEETING/WALKABOUT HELD ON MONDAY 5TH OCTOBER 2009 COMMENCING AT 10.00 AM.

Present: Councillor J Coutts (Chairman), Councillor R Brinkley, P Maudlin, D Milton and the Clerk Mrs L Trevena

1. APOLOGIES

There were no apologies.

2. DECLARATIONS FROM MEMBERS IN RELATION TO PERSONAL OR PREJUDICIAL INTEREST IN ANY AGENDA ITEM

None.

3. TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE HIGHWAYS & OPEN SPACES MEETING HELD ON 6TH JULY 2009

The minutes of the Highways and Open Spaces Meeting held on 6th July 2009 was taken as read, confirmed and signed as a true record.

4. TO VISIT AND CONSIDER ANY WORK REQUIRED:

4.1 Caldecote Green - The Green

Members were extremely pleased with the work carried out by D J Granger contractors to clear the weeds growth in the young hedgerow and clearance of the ivy and weeds adjacent to the rear fences of properties from footpath 8 up to Water Lane.

RECOMMENDED that:

- a) contractors be asked to carry out annual flail cutting of the side areas of Caldecote Green
- b) contractors be asked to remove bottom branches/shoots of three trees at the entrance to Water Lane

4.2 Pound Close - Amenity Area

Members were asked to consider whether or not play equipment would be suitable for the open spaces amenity area (referred from Council on 14th September 2009)

RECOMMENDED that this amenity area is unsuitable for the erection of play equipment.

4.3 Lower Caldecote – Milestone

This site was not visited but the Clerk reported that the site was satisfactory when she visited the noticeboard adjacent to the milestone last week.

4.4 Hatch – Common and footpath

Site satisfactory.

4.5 Northhill – The Green and pond

The Green – site satisfactory.

Northhill Pond – The contractor has been given an order for repair work to the sluice and it was hoped that the work will be carried out this week. The pond is in a poor condition as the water level is extremely low. Members discussed the fact that roots from the willow were now protruding above the water level and also that the weather conditions had been extremely dry recently. The pond wall now appears to have several cracks in it.

RECOMMENDED that the Central Bedfordshire Arboricultural Officer be contacted and asked his opinion regarding the complete removal of the willow tree adjacent to Northhill Pond.

4.6 Ickwell Green - The Green

Members looked at the drainage ditches but agreed that no clearance work can take place on Ickwell Green until the Harper Trust have cleared their section of the ditch.

RECOMMENDED that River Ivel Drainage Board be contacted to assist with the request to Harper Trust to clear out their section of the ditch.

Members looked at the recent repair work to Ickwell Green Track in relation to Colemoreham Farm House entrance. The matter was referred from Council due to a complaint from Mrs Papworth. The area in front of this property, which was originally grass, had previously been used for the parking of vehicles and the ground was compacted.

RECOMMENDED that a quotation be obtained for digging out the area in front of Colemoreham Farm House fencing, a soak-away installed and the area grassed over.

RECOMMENDED that the ivy from the oak tree near the bus shelter be removed and the lower branches be lifted on the willow tree to the side of the cricket pavilion to allow ease of pedestrian access.

4.7 Other worked required

RECOMMENDED that Highways be informed:

- a) 'Upper Caldecote' sign completely down adjacent to G & M Growers, Hitchin Road, Upper Caldecote;
- b) 'Road junction' sign on B658 near Kings Hill Cottages, Upper Caldecote hidden by tree growth;
- c) 'The Pastures', Upper Caldecote road sign leaning needs re-securing;
- d) Drain outside 22 Harvey Close, Upper Caldecote not clearing water as the area floods;
- e)* Trees on amenity grass area in Ashby Drive, Upper Caldecote opposite Dene Way entrance require bottom branches to be lifted as they hinder pedestrian access;
- f)* Trees on amenity grass area in Dene Way, Upper Caldecote opposite Taddy Close require bottom branches to be lifted as they hinder pedestrian access;
- g)* Amenity grass areas in Harvey Close and The Pastures, Upper Caldecote (previously MBDC grass) not being maintained/cut.

* Highways to be informed that this Council would like to arrange a site meeting to discuss these problems. This Council would consider offering its services to maintain these areas subject to agreement and annual payment from Central Bedfordshire Council

- h) Litter bin at Atterton's Corner (junction of Biggleswade Road/Ashby Drive), Upper Caldecote requires fixing/re-siting as it keeps getting pushed off its mounting;
- i) Drain totally blocked outside All Saint's Church, Biggleswade Road, Upper Caldecote;
- j) Drain blocked outside the Old Vicarage, Biggleswade Road, Upper Caldecote;
- k) Drain blocked in Hitchin Road adjacent to the junction of Biggleswade Road, Upper Caldecote;
- l) Culvert adjacent to either side of Pound Close, Upper Caldecote needs clearing of weeds, tree shoots and debris;

- m) Bush adjacent to Pound Close, Upper Caldecote requires cutting back due to visibility splay problems when exiting Pound Close onto Vinegar Hill Road;
- n) Potholes in B658 near Bidlake Memorial junction, Hatch;
- o) Verge markers to be erected between Hatch Turn and Bidlake Memorial, Hatch on left hand side heading north (this was reported to Highways in January 2009);
- p) Hatch embankment needs further building up between Hatch Turn and Bidlake Memorial to prevent danger to vehicles ending up in the stream after an accident;
- q) Ivy to be removed from safety railings at junction of Hatch Common/ Thorncote Road, Hatch;
- r) Thorncote Road, Hatch footpath requires clearing of grass and ivy to allow safe access;
- s) Road subsidence outside 53 Ickwell Road, Northhill;
- t) Blocked drain in Ickwell Road, Northhill adjacent to Northhill Pond;
- u) Large pothole in Ickwell Green, Ickwell adjacent to the track/Sheepwalk

5. CORRESPONDENCE

Email received from Mr Ashcroft of Ickwell Green thanking the Council for the repair works to Ickwell Green Track and asking about clearance of the ditch in front of his property. This was dealt with under item 4.6 above.

6. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

T.B.A.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 12.24 pm.