



Radcliffe on Trent Parish Council
The Grange, Vicarage Lane,
Radcliffe-on-Trent, Nottingham NG12 2FB

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Amenities Committee Meeting Tuesday 26th July 2022 at 7pm in The Grange

Present: Cllr Jo Spencer, Cllr Harry Curtis, Cllr Irene Dovey, Cllr Anne McLeod, Cllr David Graham,
 Cllr Phil Thomas, Cllr Tracy James, Cllr Matthew Douglas-Kirk and Cllr Sue Clegg

Also in attendance: Karen Green (Clerk), and 3 members of the public.

Minutes

1. Apologies for Absence

Proposal to accept apologies for absence from Cllr Gillian Dunn, Cllr Shaun Moroney, Cllr Martin Davis, Cllr Oliver Bere

Proposed Cllr Graham

Seconded Cllr Clegg

Unanimous

APPROVED

Apologies were not given from Cllr Ian Rhodes, Cllr Alice Tomlinson

2. Declarations of Interest-none

3. Proposal to appoint a new Chair of the Committee

Proposal to appoint Cllr David Graham as Chair of the Amenities committee

Proposed Cllr Spencer

Seconded Cllr Clegg

Unanimous

APPROVED

As Cllr Graham was Vice Chair there was the need to appoint a new vice chair to the Amenities committee

Proposal to appoint Alice Tomlinson as Vice Chair to the Amenities committee

Proposed Cllr Spencer

Seconded Cllr Clegg

Unanimous

APPROVED

4. Open Session for members of the public to raise matters of council business Limited to 15 Minutes

Radcooks spoke to the room regarding their required space needed for storage in the Grange kitchen

Radcooks request a meeting with the Parish Council

Phil Taylor of the conservation group spoke to the meeting updating Council on the tasks the conservation group are completing and requesting support from Council and the Clerk

5. Proposal to accept the Minutes of the Amenities Committee Meeting held on 31st May 2022

Proposed Cllr Graham

Seconded Cllr Thomas

Unanimous

APPROVED

Item 22 was moved to this point in the Agenda

6. Chairman's announcements- the chair told the meeting that there has been graffiti on the skate park which Cllrs have removed

16. Proposal to install lights in the Gazebo to position LEDS on hooks**Proposed Cllr Graham****Seconded Cllr Clegg****Unanimous****APPROVED****17. Proposal to test the brickwork under the paint at The Grange by asking the contactor coming to look at the roof to strip a section while they are here****Proposed Cllr Thomas****Seconded Cllr Spencer****Unanimous****APPROVED****18. Bigham Road play area fence-** there has been considerable damage done to the fence around the play area, the wetpour is damaged but not in a way that it will cause any issues**Proposal to obtain quotes for either metal fencing or board fencing and gate around the play area****Proposed Cllr Graham****Seconded Cllr Spencer****Unanimous****APPROVED****19. Grange Hall update-** the administrator is doing a good job of keeping things running, the extra caretaker is a lot of help**20. The Grange and Grange Hall income-** for Finance and General Purposes**21. Update from the Housekeeping/Maintenance Working Group** noted **council need to re look at Kitchen and changing room charges****22. Agree use of kitchens by hirers** Council will meet with the hirer to get the best for both parties, **Cllr Graham to arrange a meeting****23. Proposal to install 2 extra bins in The Grange grounds because of the litter issues****Proposed Cllr Graham****Seconded Cllr McLeod****Unanimous****APPROVED****24. Update from the Conservation group report;****(A).RIVERSIDE & LILY PONDS**

1.Hollow Well access steps and path

Outflow Pipe – P.Thomas to ask Clerk to contact John Ingram about placing a support under the outflow pipe he fitted in late 2021 to prevent sagging. Clerk has sent email (25th and 30th May). Any update (appears to be still outstanding)?

Drainage problems at Gulley by Outflow Pipe – not raised at meeting but flooding onto footpath observed on Wednesday 25th May. Blocked gulley was the problem, fixed by P.Taylor on same day. Email / photos sent to Clerk, Phil Thomas, John Ingram. RCG feels this is a maintenance problem for the Parish Council and annual cleaning out in spring is the solution.

Handrail – another section down. Reported to Clerk on 13th July. Also some step edges broken lower down. Allow for some repair work in Budget proposals.

2.Tree Planting Project with Trent Rivers Trust

No specific actions arising. P.Taylor has received recent correspondence with Jon Lewis at the Trust (24th May), indicating they would be willing to assist with tree planting next winter. Replied expressing interest. Some held-over saplings from this winter to plant up. Also, may need to resurrect request to Parish Council to spend small sum of money from Nature Reserves budget to top up 'species pool' (see Budget proposals).

3. Weir Head Area

CRT affixed warning sign to new railing on Thursday 26th May. Additional lifesaving equipment and path improvements are outstanding matters from August 2021 meeting. Actions – Phil Thomas to write to Richard Bennett concerning the former, Phil Taylor pursuing latter via Richard Bennett and also registration of RCG as a volunteer group with CRT. Email sent and acknowledged, awaiting reply. Re-sent 08/07/2022. Awaiting forms from CRT Volunteer Coordinator. Notwithstanding this, that section of footpath was cleared and willows cut back on 6th July.

4. Benches

Simple but popular. Middle one requires new top. However, main issue is the uprights, which are felled pieces of timber. These have been in situ since 2015 and probably won't last that much longer. The one facing the weir is already loose. See the budget proposal to replace at least two out of the three with heavy duty 'plank' benches (three if costs permit). Specification circulated to Phil Thomas, other RCG members and WG councillors on 29/05/2022. If agreed, will require quotations.

5. Control of Himalayan Balsam

There is still plenty around the site, especially at the base of the Cliff Bank to the rear of the ponds. This area is more difficult to access. If we can find a way in, it will be targeted this summer. Started clearing on 6th July. Further work deferred until young trees have been irrigated.

6. Mowing

Paul Hunt undertook one supplementary cut in August last year, we think. We're not sure that NCC did do a second cut in late summer. Conservation Group will continue to scythe paths upstream through the season but it's important for the Parish Council to ensure NCC do their two cuts and provide for two supplementary cuts along the main footpath circuit due to the rapid re-growth of vegetation on the site during the summer months. Timing always an issue. Will depend on when NCC does first cut. NCC contractors mowed at end of May. Karen has requested Paul Hunt do a cut around end of July if possible (further cut might be required if vegetation grows back heavily – suggest we re-check mid-September. May not be needed if NCC come back – to confirm). Conservation Group carried out first cut upstream late May. Second cut now due, likely early August after tree irrigation and Balsam clearance.

7. Bat Boxes

15 installed along the Cliff Top by Notts. Bat Group on 24th April and paid for from the Nature Reserves Budget. 11th July – John Parker checked. Confirmed 1 pipistrelle in outer slot of Box 4A (near Park).

(B). DEWBERRY HILL

1. Annual Mowing of Grassland

See DH Management Plan Work Plan 3.1.3 at Page 16. No mowing of secondary grassland in 2022 so areas to be done this year will be the area opposite Woodland Close twitchell and the slope facing Cropwell Road. It is important the work is undertaken around early to mid-September to allow grasses and flowers time to set seed but before the weather turns. Please can the Clerk book Mark Winter for the mowing? Conservation Group members usually meet him briefly beforehand on site to go over areas to be mown.

2. Mowing of Paths

The 'Green Climber' remote-controlled mower (RBC-funded) has been available for three consecutive years in late September and has proved vital for undertaking scrub and bramble

control along the path edges. It is hoped funding will be available again in 2022 but cost increases, especially fuel, may restrict the overall number of work days. Nevertheless, we will bid for a site visit if the machine becomes available. Paul Phillips at RBC has the funding, Ben Driver at NWT will be organising the work schedule. We've requested a visit to Dewberry Hill. As at 11/07/2022, the contractor had not yet been appointed. Phillip Taylor to liaise with Ben and keep Parish Council updated.

3. Entrance Area

Poor state of sections of fence adjoining Cropwell Road – 2 uprights rotten at base and loose. 5 rails could do with replacing. All other uprights firm in ground. Suggested last year we include as a budget item for this year and obtain cost estimate for essential repairs (refer to Clause 3.5 in the lease, [Parish Council to] 'maintain and keep the property in a good clean and tidy condition and to maintain the security fencing, gate and stile on Cropwell Road to prevent unlawful access.'). Suggested now that we defer this to next year and switch expenditure to removing bricks from the path further up (trip hazard – see forwarded correspondence) and concreting level small culvert to left of path. This has been temporarily covered with a large piece of felled poplar. Some dead branches at lower level including overhangs to pavement appear to have been dealt with as part of recent felling work. Large side branch off hawthorn (recent damage), blocking bottom of side footpath. Pedestrians will 'walk round' but removal best to facilitate deployment of 'Green Climber' and access for Mark Winter. Update-RCG members still feel it's worthwhile to even up the section of path referred to above. Unfortunately it's not been possible to meet on site with other WG councillors to discuss. Situation regarding hawthorn has moved on. More of the tree has come down but it has been cut up in situ (not by us) and the path cleared in both directions. Need to recheck clear access from the gate for machinery. Parish Council / NCC site inspection on 13th June raised safety concerns over steel plate covering shaft on path. Do we have an update on 'fencing off' / levelling up path (Karen's email from 15th June refers)?

4. Benches

These have both now been repaired (new wooden slats), sometime in April 2022, we think. What was the cost and which year's budget will it come out of? Conservation Group to re-stain / paint. Note: Likely to be early September.

5. Moth Surveying

Now in fourth year. The site is proving very good habitat for moths. Surveying to continue through 2022.

(C). COMMUNITY GROUP ACTIVITY IN 2022

Year-to-date statistics to 03/05/2022:-

Total year-to-date hours on work activity (excl. meetings / surveying etc.) 204:-

Litter Picking 13

Putting up Bat Boxes 12

Pathwork / Clearing Bramble 23

Tree Work – Winter Pruning 51

Tree Work – Planting 81

Tree Work – Aftercare (Weeding, Mulching, Irrigating) 24

Total number of sessions 22, Midweek 16, Weekend 6

Nos. attending Midweek– Range 3 – 8, Average 5.4 Nos. attending Weekend– Range 2 – 7, Average 2.8

Key work tasks going forward in 2022:-

Lily Ponds / Riverside – Aftercare in Tree Planting Areas (6 of these), Cutting / maintenance of upper riverside paths not on P.F. circuit and targeted Balsam clearance. Note all these require multiple sessions.

Dewberry Hill – Restain / paint repaired benches. Organise ‘Green Climber’ via RBC for path maintenance and scrub clearance (n.b. suggested path repairs – see Budget proposals below best undertaken late Sept. / early Oct. once that’s done). Liaise with Mark Winter over annual grassland mowing. Continue working with Paul Dulwich on Moth Surveys.

Update – Work sessions have continued most weeks though numbers attending have fallen back a bit. Moth surveys have continued, on average one or two per month.

(D).OTHER MATTERS

(i).Detailed Budget Proposals for 2022/23

Note last year’s budget of £3,000 appears to have been underspent by £1,200 – a measure of things we’re not getting done.

This year’s budget is also set at £3,000, provisional detail suggested below, divided into core work listed within the Management Plans and other work subsequently identified as a priority:-

- (1).Dewberry Hill Grassland Mowing - £800 (LY £750). Slightly smaller area this year but possible increase in labour / fuel cost? – core work
- (2).Dewberry Hill Remedial Work to path. Remove bricks where jutting out of the path and level surface. See email correspondence from Jenny Sims. Also backfill and concrete level small culvert to side of path. Need to obtain quotation (John Ingram?). Estimate £500 – other priority
- (3).Lily Ponds / Riverside. Supplementary mowing 2 x £175 (LY £160) = £350 – core work
- (4).Lily Ponds / Riverside. Hollow Well steps. Rail and step repairs. Estimate £250 – other priority. Likely to be an annual cost due to path wear & tear and deteriorating state of rail and posts.
- (5).Lily Ponds / Riverside. Replace riverside benches. If possible, do all three (see above). Will require supply and (firm) fix. Costs need to be established – other priority
- (6).Lily Ponds / Riverside Winter 2023 tree planting – small numbers of specific species (wild pear, viburnum opulus, hornbeam) for infill planting. Estimate £125 – other priority (not able to achieve in 2021/2022)

Note – need to establish cost of recent DH bench repair. Which budget will it come out of?

(ii).Tree Felling at Cliff Top viewpoints

Focus seems to have been on ‘improving the view’. While this undoubtedly has some merit and value to passers-by, there are a number of downsides. Firstly, the number of trees needed to be taken down ‘to get a good view’ is considerable and extends well down the slope. At the location just above Valley Road, no view has in fact been created. Anyone walking down to the fence can simply look down onto the willows in the damp woodland area below. A bigger concern should be the potential erosion to the cliff bank. Tree cover acts as a brake to falling rain as water is shed more slowly via the leaves into the ground. Take that tree cover away and rain falls directly onto steep ground and is washed downwards more quickly. Admittedly, if the tree cover is mainly deciduous, the advantage is greatest in the summer months. Nevertheless, the impact shouldn’t be underestimated and that can be better appreciated by standing on the footpath below and looking up the bared slope above. To maintain these viewpoints will mean future felling to stem re-growth and this could worsen the problem.

(iii).Picnic Area by riverside

What to do with the old one? Reinstate bench near main pond? Would be a fourth (see D(i).(4). above). Risk of vandalism. Previous one ripped out.

Note: Potential to mow out an area adjacent to the riverbank in front of the second bench. There is a greater proportion of grass than nettle here and, combined with a new bench, would make the area more attractive.

(v).Electric Brushcutter/Strimmer

Would Parish Council raise objections to RCG seeking to acquire / use one? It would enhance our capability, e.g. maintaining an area like that suggested above and clearing and maintenance of tree plots, and be more environmentally friendly / quieter and less hazardous than a petrol cutter. If feasible, we'd seek funding via the RBC Biodiversity Grant and hopefully via Borough / County Councillors. Notts. Wildlife Trust is planning a brushcutter training course in autumn 2022 for conservation groups in Rushcliffe. We've reserved two places. This course may lead to a recognised qualification.

The Parish Council will support the grant request from RBC and will liaise regarding Dewberry hill

25. Events Working Group notes and update- none

26. Proposal to accept the quote for repair of existing Christmas lights

Proposal to obtain a quote for replacement lights to compare to the cost of existing ones

Proposed Cllr Spencer

Seconded Cllr Clegg

Unanimous

APPROVED

27. Proposal to accept quote for Flat Pakka litterbins x 10

Proposed Cllr Graham

Seconded Cllr Spencer

All agreed

APPROVED

Cllr Douglas-Kirk left the meeting

28. Tour of Britain Events proforma- Cllr Clegg to take to events group

29. Leisure Hub Working Group update- none

30. Play equipment Working Group update-the supplier needs to repair the damaged equipment in the Grange grounds and separated wetpour Clerk to contact supplier

31. Skate Park Liaison group report-none

32. Football Liaison Working Group report-none

33. Re-convene Christmas Working Group Cllrs: Clegg, Spencer and James will convene

34. Vandalism update noted

35. Correspondence- residence concern over Public Space Protection orders, RBC Abby Brenan will look into this

36. Date of the next meeting Tuesday 4th October 2022 at 7pm

Meeting closed at 8.47pm

I declare that the above is a true record of the meeting

Signed

Date

Chair

Amenities Committee