

CROWTHORNE PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE TRUSTEES OF WALTER RECREATION GROUND AND CIRCLE HILL HELD ON THURSDAY 8 NOVEMBER 2018 AT THE MORGAN CENTRE, WELLINGTON ROAD, CROWTHORNE AT 10.30AM

Present:	CPC Cllr C G Robertson Cllr S Sever, CPC Mr M Dodd Mrs M Saville – Administrator Mrs J Robertson – Assistant Admin 1 member of the public	WWPC Mr P Metcalf – in the Chair Cllr D Dye, WWPC – arrived 10.41am Cllr K Newland – left 11.15am
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Apologies accepted: None

The Chairman introduced Mr R Burrows to the meeting. Mr Burrows has expressed an interest in joining the Walter Recreation Ground Charity as a Trustee and attended the meeting as an observer.

1 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Mr Metcalf declared an ongoing interest as a resident of Circle Hill Rd.

2 APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the annual meeting of the Trustees of Walter Recreation Ground and Circle Hill held on 31 May 2018 as circulated, were taken as read, confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a true record.

3 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MEETING HELD ON 31 MAY 2018

1 Min 8.1 – Bike Jumps

Cllr Newland reported that he had not managed to make much more progress on the acquisition of a buggy by WWPC, but doubted that it would be big enough to move large pieces of wood from Circle Hill for disposal.

Action: Cllr Newland agreed to speak to the Clerk at WWPC to follow up the query.

2 Min 8.2 – Woodland Update

Mr P Metcalf reported that he had not observed any raptors using the larger bird boxes as yet. It was discussed whether the boxes in question needed to be higher in order to attract birds of that size. Mr Dodd agreed to look into this.

Action: Mr Dodd

3 Min 8.3 – Hedgehog Homes

Mr Dodd reported that there were no signs of hedgehogs using the hedgehog homes yet. He had not been able to install a motion camera yet.

Action: Mr Dodd

4 Min 8.4 – Ditch Clearance

Nick Robins has carried out the ditch clearance work and invoiced for these works.

Mr Metcalf reported that what was originally thought to be a spring bringing water in the ditch, had been confirmed to be a leaking pipe which has now been fixed.

5 Min 8.5 – Japanese knotweed

Nick Robins has continued to treat the clumps of Japanese Knotweed that were seen at Circle Hill Woods as part of a three-year treatment plan.

6 Min 9.2 – Day in the Woods

Cllr Robertson reported that the Crowthorne C of E School would speak to their pupils about the dangers of bike jumps as they are better placed to do this.

7 Min 9.3 – Legal & General

The Administrator has written to L&G to thank them for their efforts undertaking regular litter picks. A meeting has also taken place between the Administrator and Meena Bahra of the Social Value Portal where grateful thanks were again expressed on behalf of both Parish Councils and Trustees for L&G's volunteer's efforts and confirmation received that the litter picks are to continue.

8 Min 13.1 – Items for information - Wildflower Planting

The Administrator agreed to look into obtaining free plants from the British Wildlife Trust.

Action: Administrator

9 Min 13.2 – Publicity and Promotion of the work of the Trust

- Mr Dodd reported that his stall at the Summer of Fun event had been well received and involved children helping to build insect homes which will be placed at Circle Hill at some point. Similar installations have taken place at Buckler's Park and have been publicised on local Facebook pages.

Action: Administrator to do publicity about insect homes at Circle Hill when they are installed.

- Cllr Sever reported that he had taken a variety of photos which may be suitable for publicity. Cllr Robertson agreed to look into making a collage out of the photos. It was suggested that the Morgan Centre may be a suitable place for the collage display.

Action: Cllr Robertson.

- The possibility of applying for Green Flag status was discussed. Mr Dodd stated that the status was an endorsement that an area was properly managed. The Green Flag Award scheme recognises and rewards well managed parks and green spaces, setting the benchmark standard for the management of recreational outdoor spaces across the UK and around the world.

Action: Administrator to look into obtaining a Green Flag Award

- Cllr Robertson reported that the condition of the woodland footpath appeared to be satisfactory even after the recent rain.

4 ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

1 Fence Damage

Reports of vandalism to the fence facing Pinewood Avenue at the Walter Recreation Ground were received in July 2018. Repair works were commissioned and undertaken by John Smith costing £531. A claim to the Trust's insurers was made which covered £431 of the cost of repair works as there was a £100 excess on the policy.

2 Trustee Insurance

New Trustee insurance cover was taken out with BHIB on 15 August 2018, after a comprehensive review of cover available in the market place. The cost of the policy was £510.04.

3 Felling of Dead Tree

Nick Robins undertook work to fell a dead pine in August 2018. The resulting dead wood was chopped up and left in-situ to provide a wildlife habitat.

4 Berkshire Conservation Volunteers

BCV had arranged to visit Circle Hill Woods and undertake bramble, holly and laurel clearance works on 23 September, however, the visit was cancelled at short notice due to very heavy rain. The visit took place instead on 4 November.

5 TO APPROVE THE APPOINTMENT OF LEE GARNER OF TREE ASSESSMENTS UK TO UNDERTAKE TREE SURVEYS AND ADVISE ON A TREE MANAGEMENT PLAN AND FRAMEWORK FOR CIRCLE HILL WOODS AND WALTER RECREATION GROUND

The Trust has previously engaged Nick Robins to undertake an annual tree survey and carry out all remedial work advised. Current best practice is that an independent tree surgeon/arboriculturalist carries out an inspection and that a separate tree surgeon/arboriculturalist carries out the remedial work to improve transparency and avoid any implication of unnecessary works being recommended, carried out and charged for.

A satisfactory reference has been obtained for Lee Garner and his quotation was considerably lower than the other quotations obtained. The package Lee Garner provides includes digital mapping and recommendations for the tree surgeon/arboriculturalist who will carry out the works as well as tree paint marking for ease of identification. His website refers to working for other local authorities and highways authorities.

It was therefore proposed by Cllr Newland, seconded by Mr Dodd and unanimously RESOLVED to instruct Lee Garner of Tree Assessments UK to undertake tree surveys and advise the Trust on establishing and implementing a tree management strategy and framework for Circle Hill Woods and the Walter Recreation Ground.

6 TO APPROVE THE PROPOSED BUDGET FOR 2019/2020

Members studied the proposed budget for 2019/2020 and agreed that additional admin time should be allocated to the application for Green Flag status and agreed to add £240 to this item which brings this proposed budget into line with last year's.

As recommended by Cllr Newland and seconded by Mr Metcalf, it was unanimously RESOLVED to approve the proposed final budget for 2019/20 as presented including the one change outlined above.

7 ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

1 Mr Metcalf reported that he had observed bats in the Circle Hill area but wasn't sure where they were nesting. The bat boxes still needed to be put up. Many rodents have been observed and birdlife seemed plentiful. Cllr Dye noted that there was a lack of butterflies in the area.

2 Cllr Sever offered to take photographs of wildlife but would need some assistance in locating creatures for photographing.

3 Cllr Dye once again expressed her concern about the amount of cherry laurel and rhododendron that there was in the area and the need to reduce it. It was suggested that Nick Robins could look into this and allocate some time to undertake some clearance. It was also suggested that L&G, through the SVP, be asked if they could provide some assistance.

Action: Administrator

8 ITEMS FOR INCLUSION ON FUTURE AGENDAS

- Woodland footpath update
- Review of Woodland Plan
- Planting of Alder Buckthorn

Meeting closed 11.22am

Signed

Dated