



## ALDENHAM PARISH COUNCIL

### Open Spaces Officer's Report - February 2021

#### To review the bike tracks in The Piggeries (see minute 22).

A report regarding the formation of a club at the Piggeries had been circulated prior to the meeting.

*Resolved:*

- b) That the Council's solicitor be asked to formulate a 5-year lease at a peppercorn rent between APC and the Radlett Trails Club- **solicitor instructed***

#### To decide on the next steps regarding the Radlett Report Centre (see minute 293).

A report on this matter had been circulated prior to the meeting. Previously, the committee had asked for quotes to carry out the repairs suggested by the structural engineer, including removal of the asbestos. They had also asked for the cost of demolition of the report centre. The costs for these were £5,000 for the repairs and £10,000 for demolition.

Members discussed both options as well as the possibility of allowing the 'Friends of group to use the facility for storage of equipment if only the repairs were carried out.

- a) That Howes & Boughton be appointed to carry out the repairs to the report centre as stated in the structural engineers' report, including the safe removal and disposal of the asbestos, with a budget of £5,500. – **Work completed***
- b) That once repaired APC enter into discussions with the 'Friends of Scrubbitts Wood' group to use it for possible storage of equipment. - **meeting with Friends of Scrubbitts Wood held September 2019 they would like to use building for storage – Solicitor has been instructed to draw up lease/agreement, electricity has been installed and is being connected. PCM chased lease with solicitor (10/2020)***

#### To receive a report on the Scrubbitts Wood Management Plan (see minute 33)

A report had previously been circulated providing the background of the management plan for Scrubbitts Wood. Cllr H Jones explained in more detail the work of the Friends of Scrubbitts Wood (FOSW) and the committee discussed the use of the proposed noticeboards. It was then:

*Resolved to agree in principle to a noticeboard at the entrances at each end of the wood at a budget of £1,100 each for the years 2020/21 and 2021/22. The type and location of the noticeboards is to be agreed between APC and the FOSW. –*

**Applied for planning permission to install information board at Gills Hill entrance. Draft information has been sent to FoSW for their input while planning permission is confirmed (1/2021) estimated response 3/2021**



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### **To consider a request from Radlett Trails (RTC) to fund bird boxes and rebuilding of structures at The Piggeries (see minute 46)**

A report had been previously circulated detailing the request. Following discussion, it was

Resolved:

- a) *That APC will purchase 60 bird boxes, of which 20 will be provided to RTC to install at The Piggeries, the remainder being installed in other open spaces in the parish - **RTC have installed some log piles - completed***
  - b) *That RTC will work with the Officer for APC to understand what is needed to ensure that the structures are safe and provide resources within a budget of £850. **See (c)***
  - c) *That £850 is vired from the salaries budget to Open Spaces in order to fund b) above.*
- **OST have met with representative of the club, 10/2020 – Annual review meeting – RTC will provide APC with design and list of resources required to re-build the starting structures (following Risk Assessment and Structural survey). Wood purchased 1/2021 at £630) - £230 balance to be utilised**

### **To consider the next steps on the Scrubbits Wood Management Plan**

A report had been previously circulated. After discussion it was then

Resolved:

- a) *To install one handrail*
  - b) *To repair the damaged steps and fit non-slip strips to the step-edges*
  - c) *£3,000 has been allowed from the Open Spaces budget for this work*
- Planning permission applied for estimated response 2/2021**

### **To update progress of Green Flag application for Phillimore Recreation Ground**

A report had been previously circulated. Following discussion, it was

Resolved:

- a) *To adopt the Phillimore Recreation Ground Management Plan - **adopted***
- b) *To submit an application for Green Flag accreditation when the 2020/21 applications open – **application submitted 12/2020, accepted 1/2021***
- c) *To purchase an information board for Fir Spring Wood at a budget of £2,000 to be vired from salaries – **order placed, details to be finalised, draft received and amended (1/2021)***

### **To receive tenders for 2020/2021 tree works at King George V Playing Fields and Car Park**

A report had been circulated prior to the meeting. Following discussion, it was

Resolved:

- a) *For the Open Spaces Team to undertake the work they have identified they can safely undertake.*
- b) *To appoint Longacre to complete the remaining work at a budget of £8,048 to be vired from salaries – **Longacre appointed, agreeing start date (preliminary 3/2021)***



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### For your information:

- We continue to work with the Environmental Health Officer to reduce rats in the area of Radlett Gardens (inspections have been reduced from weekly to fortnightly)
- Signage to Phillimore Recreation Ground has been partly installed – Officer continues to monitor and chase HCC for sign at junction of Gills Hill/Gills Hill Lane
- The officer has attended Webinars by The National Allotment Society
- Bowls club hedges have been cut
- APC tree work in respect of the bowls club survey has been completed, the bowls club are attending to remaining recommendations
- Following a fallen tree at Tykeside, believed to be due decay, the others have been inspected and quotes obtained for the work
- Officer attended Parish Online Webinar and trialled system