

Polegate Town Council

Land and Buildings Working Group incorporating Brightling Road
Leisure Grounds

April 2nd 2012, at Brightling Road.

Present:

Cllr M Clewett (lead Cllr)

Cllrs T Voyce, Mrs M Piper, Mrs C Berry, G Carter

N Holden (maintenance)

Public: Mr F Northcott

Apologies from R Martin (hospital); J Harmer

Councillor Harmer had been briefed and his comments were discussed at the meeting.

1. Scalpings

This was considered to be a good idea. To make sure that the track leading up to and including the bridge was repaired.

- * *The clerk will carry these out as part of her normal duties unless the quotation comes in higher than her financial remit and then will submit to council for a resolution for approval.*

2. Roadway to the Mini Railway

Cllr Voyce stated that there had been a proposal previously to overlay the grass with a mesh as used by emergency services to provide an adequate surface for vehicles to travel over. This was to extend from the bridge to just beyond the mini railway enclosure.

A resolution has already been passed to proceed with a lottery bid for a disability application for a roadway/pathway to extend from the William Daly Gates to the Mini railway including a small (for about 6 cars) area of parking in front of the mini railway area. At a subsequent meeting following the elections it was also agreed in principal that the clerk would look into ways to have parking area inside the William Daly Gates but for the gate to be moved back to protect the field.

The lottery quotes had already been received and were being renewed. The clerk is consecutively looking into various forms of parking restrictions and barriers and the legalities surrounding that.

The clerk has done a brief risk assessment on the safety aspects of the footway and roadway and how it will be used.

3. Land Drainage

It is known that the area of the field from the basketball court extending past the mini railway enclosure is prone to minor flooding/water logging. Due to the dry spell there was no evidence of this on the site visit. Cllrs M Clewett, J O’Riordan and maintenance person N Holden has looked at the area around 6 months ago and considered that two-three perforated land drains could be run across the space, which dips at mid point, and then run off into a drain to the rill by the bridge. This is a simple answer but could be costly in labour and plant. Cllr Carter mentioned that there are some water storage by pass tanks buried to the right of the railway plot. Cllr Clewett stated that the clerk had informed him that she was awaiting plans from the water company to determine where these were and how deep they are. It was not likely to affect the proposal. Cllr Clewett stated that he would be happy to help prepare the scheme for pricing.

The clerk is also investigating the possibility of having the drainage performed under a sports council lottery bid as she had seen literature stating the intention to bring unusable fields into use.

4. Mini Railway fence

All at the meeting agreed that it was the railways responsibility. Town Clerk to check if funds had been offered.

A resolution was made to renew the fencing of the mini railway enclosure as part of the council’s land. However, there were repairs that were to be carried out by the mini railway. The clerk was in contact with the railway and once a contractor was selected to inform them of the contractor so that the railway could use their services at the same time. The finance has already been agreed from the normal maintenance budget. The other items (enviro loo parking etc were discussed and resolved to be placed under the lottery bid)

5. Picnic bench provision

There were adequate funds for 6 picnic benches/tables. Need to check with the town clerk who suggested the committee had £6200 to spend. Cllr Clewett stated he would check with the clerk the details of the finances.

Council have resolved to fund 3 picnic benches in the meadow and 4 by the railway. The clerk has also managed to obtain funding for an additional picnic bench in the meadow (part funded by the police). This money was to come from the earmarked reserve for the items that were unlikely to be included in the lottery bid. The majority of the funding was from play equipment budget that the clerk had not needed to use and council had resolved to move to the budget for this purpose. Council have also resolved to move £3000 from the eplanning (no longer required) budget to the same earmarked fund to fund, picnic benches, signage and the fencing so that the work could go ahead asap.

Former cllr Mrs J Bigsby, had suggested that some picnic benches should be grouped together to cater for people in rambling groups and larger families. All present were in favour of this idea. Therefore it was agreed that subject to funding, that one picnic bench be sited alongside the current one in the meadow. A further one by the young beech tree. The other available four funds permitting should be outside the railway enclosure and two more in the corner to the right.

The clerk will need precise locations and can put a motion forward to full council approval for the work to go ahead. There is adequate budget for the picnic benches. The delay of the installation of the four in the field is due to the lottery bid for the parking area. If council are happy to resolve the area the picnic benches can be installed just beyond that (to avoid the risk of picnic and cars coming into close contact).

- * *The clerk will look into supplying photos of the area marked out for parking and the locations of the picnic benches. If the matter is resolved these can go ahead as the budget has adequate provision.*

6. The Pond

All present looked at the area concerned. The pond is very shallow and has water in at present. It is recommended that a waterproof liner, not an expensive pond liner, is installed. 1000g building gauge polythene (in black) to be laid over the mud, covered with gravel and leaves so it is hidden and let the natural water course trickle through. N Holden is happy to lay logs around to keep the lining down. Cllr Clewett would investigate the costs.

- * *The clerk is looking at a few risk assessment issues and possible requirements for signage to the area (Caution water). There is adequate money for a liner in the budget. The clerk will liaise with the maintenance person and Cllr Clewett after having looked at the*

insurance and legal issues which may arise and will put a motion forward to council to discuss.

7. Scouts Oak Trees

It was agreed that the four oaks should be planted at the top (left) of the meadow and the other two at the bottom right. The location of the plaque will need to be discussed and resolved by council asap as this is required for the Diamond Jubilee and the Scouts will need to be informed.

* **Resolution required on location of the trees and plaque at full council.**

8. Mr Northcott wondered why the meadow is not advertised in the town. There is reference in the town hall. Cllr Clewett and Voyce stated that they would look into an item in the next newsletter. Mr Northcott asked for a copy of the minutes. It was agreed to send a copy to him.

A small article is in the newsletter already, the clerk is also looking into drafting a new leaflet, which could be produced. She has taken numerous photos of the meadow last summer to include them. Once a draft is prepared it will be brought to council. The clerk has also been obtaining quotes for signage to the meadow, there have been some product issues which are not yet resolved. Once she has obtained further details this will also be brought back to the group as there is already a resolution to purchase these. These are finger post style signage suitable with the area. She is also obtaining quotes regarding signage for the nature trail but this is possibly something that could be included in the second lottery bid. (There are three potential bids being prepared from various funding sources).

9. Any other items – none at present.