

BRAMPTON PARISH COUNCIL

CHAIRMAN: Alan Mellor



17th October 2024

Draft Minutes of the Greens & Footpaths Committee held on Wednesday 16th October 2024 at 7.00pm in The Memorial Centre, Thrapston Road.

Present: Nigel Maggs (NM), Mike Bainbridge (JMB) and Natasha Pope (NP).

In attendance: Susie Caney, Clerk and Paula Moore, Assistant Clerk.
No members of the public.

1. Apologies.

Apologies were received from Jon Chitty due to annual leave.

2. Declarations of Interests.

None.

3. To Receive and Approve the Minutes of the Meeting held on 12th June 2024.

JMB proposed acceptance of the Minutes as being a true record of the meeting, seconded by NP and duly signed by NM.

4. Update of actions arising from those minutes.

4.1 4.1 NM to follow up with Ken Billington for a progress report with the suggested new footpath from Centenary Way. *No engagement from Ken, action to remain on the list.*

Action – NM

4.2 4.7 To see if there's an ageing bench on the Village Green that could be replaced with a memorial bench. *The grounds team are aware of the request, the Clerk will follow up.*

Action – Clerk

4.3 6.2 To discuss the area of green behind The Hare on the Green pub. *A boundary survey specialist has been commissioned to map the area.*

4.4 6.4 To discuss repainting the Milestones. *The Milestone Society has sent advice detailing maintenance requirements. This work will be put on hold until the Spring.*

4.5 6.5 Memorial Garden planting plan. *The Gardening Group has drawn up a design for re-planting the area. This will be put forward to BPC for approval.*

Action – Clerk

4.6 7.1 NM to liaise with and meet the PROW Officer to highlight the issues with blocked footpath number 15. *Dan Wiggs has been contacted but a date has not yet been scheduled.*

Action – Clerk

4.7 8.2 Report the bus shelter on Thrapston Road (broken Perspex pane). *This has been reported but it was suggested that the damaged side pane is removed until it can be replaced.*

Action – Clerk

4.8 9.1 Clerk to check the budget for tree work (horse chestnut in the south-east corner of the Village Green). *The tree work has been completed and budgets are currently being reviewed.*

5. Street Lighting.

The Clerk will complete Cambs County Council's Street Lighting Stakeholder Survey on behalf of the committee.

6. Greens and Footpaths.

- 6.1 To note actions identified during the annual Village Walkabout, held on 23rd July.
1. The hedge on the corner of West End and The Green is encroaching on the pavement. *The Clerk will contact the homeowner.*
 2. The grassy area off the alley way from Elizabethan Way is overgrown. *Work has been completed by the grounds team.*
 3. The wide grass verge opposite the junction of Elizabethan Way needs cutting back. *HDC has cut the verge back.*
 4. Footpath 15 from Lesley Way to the A1 is impassable. *Pending a date for a site visit from CCC's PROW Officer.*
 5. A large shrub is encroaching on the footpath on the corner of Laws Crescent. *This will be raised with the homeowner.*
 6. Bushes along Thrapston Road create a hazard for cyclists and needs addressing with Highways. *NM reported that the bushes have been cut back slightly.*
 7. The footpath leading to Miller Way from Thrapston Road has overgrown areas with large bushes either side of the path. *The grounds team will be asked to cut these back.*
 8. On the same footpath as above (7) there is a raised manhole cover creating a trip hazard. *This has been reported.*
- 6.2 To note update regarding demarcation of the boundary area behind the Hare on the Green pub. *An appointment has been scheduled for an ASC consultant to carry out a survey and interpretation process later this month.*
- 6.3 To discuss the repainting of Milestones. *Maintenance work will be put on hold until drier weather in the Spring.*
- 6.4 To consider the planting design drawn up by the Garden Group for the Memorial Garden. *Members agreed to recommend approval of the design to be put to the Parish Council.*
- 6.5 General. *No items.*

7. PRowS.

- 7.1 General. *It was noted that Bellway have confirmed the footpath from Belle Isle to Brampton Park will be re-surfaced in November.*

8. Bus Shelters, Village Benches, Litter Bins.

- 8.1 To consider replacing the damaged wooden seat on Miller Way (opposite Evans Close) with a sustainable recycled option. *A recycled plastic option (such as Go Plastic 100% Recycled Paris Bench) was agreed as an alternative suggestion. The price of the bench is approximately £500, the Clerk will confirm the installation cost for approval by the finance committee.*
It was noted that the height of benches around the village should be monitored to ensure that less mobile pedestrians are able to comfortably sit and raise themselves up from a seated position.

Action – Clerk

- 8.2 General.

NP mentioned that additional bins had been discussed for the Memorial Playing Field. The Clerk will discuss whether there are litter issues with the grounds team.

Action – Clerk

A request has been made for a bus shelter to be installed on Miller Way adjacent to the Nisa Shop. JMB advised that the previous one had been knocked down by a bus and an insurance claim was being lodged for a replacement. It is unclear whether this claim has been submitted by HDC or the bus company. The Clerk will investigate.

Action – Clerk

9. Trees/Hedges, Verges.

9.1 To consider hedge planting around The Green.

A request was submitted to plant hedging around the edge of the Green. Following discussion this was rejected due to visibility restrictions for drivers and potential risk to pedestrians. There would also be long-term cost implications for the ongoing maintenance of a hedgerow and potential anti-social behaviour concerns by creating dark enclosed spaces.

NP suggested a discussion with the CYC Committee to see if there are opportunities for planting around the church and cemetery.

Action – Assistant Clerk

9.2 General.

NM will check the condition of the 47 memorial trees along Thrapston Road and advise if any need replacing.

Action – NM

10. To discuss the preliminary budget for 2025/26.

It was noted that HDC have provided £9,333 towards the maintenance of a bus shelter at Brampton Gate. This will be ringfenced in the budget for when the shelter has been installed. The Clerk will add incremental increases to the budget headings for review by the Finance Committee.

Action – Clerk

11. Suggested Agenda items for next meeting.

No items suggested. Date of next meeting to be confirmed.

Meeting closed at 8.05pm