

Vacancies for Parish Councillors

The Clerk reported that Cllr Ivy Parkes was shortly moving away from the area and had resigned from the Council, thereby increasing the number of vacancies to three. It was envisaged that one of these vacancies would be filled through the co-option of Mr Geoffrey Newell, but this action could not now proceed until the next meeting.

Provision of Zip Wire and Youth Shelter

The Clerk confirmed that a grant of £15,000 had been secured to support the purchase and installation of this equipment. A further £2,000 was available through donations and a small amount of Parish funding. The offer of grant now needed to be formally confirmed and the siting of equipment agreed. These matters would be remitted to the next meeting.

Recreation Ground (Including play park)

A quotation had been received from a specialist contractor, covering a range of maintenance issues and the Council would consider this at its next meeting. There were insufficient funds available to cover every item within the quote, but urgent repairs, (considered medium risk or higher), would be prioritised.

Hedge cutting

A quotation had been received. If accepted by Councillors at the next meeting, the work could go ahead during September.

Pavilion Trust

Cllr Mahony reported that the Trust had looked at the cost of upgrading security following the recent vandalism to the Pavilion. It transpired that the cost of providing CCTV and shuttering would be prohibitively expensive and it was decided to monitor the situation over time and to look at what further security might be needed in the light of experience. In relation to the Car Park, it was agreed that the Clerk would establish whether this was designated as "public" or "private", as this could affect when the barriers should be left open .

Footpaths

It was reported that a troublesome wasp nest along Footpath No 2 (Icknield Way) had recently been destroyed by Council operatives. The gate obstructing the Old Suffolk Road (Footpath No 6) had also been removed and the byway was now open.

Mr K Winter(Footpath Warden) gave a short report on an event held by P3 Partnership at Wicken Fen. It had been confirmed that funding for the partnership was being severely curtailed but there was still a willingness to promote the footpaths, particularly where this supported recreational activity.

Mr Winter also reported that all public bodies could have access to the Ordnance Survey on-line data base, and confirmed that he had applied for this on behalf of Ashley Parish Council .

The meeting closed at 8.45pm