

neighbours that had caused upset. This was nothing personal just a desire to make sure things were done as they should be.

It was agreed that due to the sensitive nature of the matter that further discussion would be held in camera, ie with the public excluded from the meeting.

[Standing order 10.i. 'to exclude the press and public from a meeting in respect of confidential or other information which is prejudicial to the public interest']

The Chairman reported:

(i) an email had been received from the leader of the group indicating that he would not be undertaking any further Greening Ashwell activities,

(ii) two parishioners had stepped forward with an offer to act as joint Chair and were contacting other members of the group.

Continuing support for the group was agreed.

47.4.2 Cycle path to the station. The Chairman reported that thanks to the input from parishioner Guy Reed communications and discussion with the NHDC Transport Officer and with other local authorities had progressed. District Cllr Tom Tyson was also liaising on this.

47.4.3 Dixies Meadow/advertisement for sale. The Chairman reported that dialogue was continuing but there was nothing to report at present.

47.4.4 The Ruddery/Rights of way review with proposals to restrict the through-route for vehicles by bollards but maintain access for pedestrians, cyclists, horse riders etc. The Chairman reported that the rights of way officer had now progressed this to the stage at which a formal consultation would be undertaken by the county council. The Parish Council had already made contact with local residents and those who had responded to date were very positive to the proposals. He was confident that there would be widespread support.

47.4.5 Conservation Area review by NHDC. The Chairman reported that NHDC had appointed a consultant to undertake this who had approached the Parish Council with a request for input from local parties with appropriate skills/background. The Parish Council had approached those known to them with a view to forming a working group to progress communications with the consultant. The Museum had agreed to be involved and local historian David Short had agreed to act as provisional group leader subject to approval by other members.

47.4.6 Liaison with the Doctor's Surgery and the Ashwell Patients Group. The Chairman reported that the new business manager was now in place. She had already held meetings with various parties including with the Pharmacy and had prepared updated protocols for communications with patients. Changes were to be made to the telephone system and face-to-face appointments at Ashwell Surgery for Ashwell based patients would be made more freely available.

He was confident that improvements would be seen and proposed that support and encouragement be extended. This was commended by others.

48. WORKING GROUP REPORTS

Offers to join or start new groups welcomed.

48.1 Neighbourhood Plan Group, (leader Cllr Graham Lee, deputy Cllr Norton Mahy). The Chairman reported that the Examiner had submitted his report. This was in favour of it being progressed to the next stage, ie a referendum, subject to

(ii) The new leaders of the group had written to the Parish Council and informed that they now had a new committee and were pursuing various matters. This included encouraging other members of the community to get involved and identifying potential locations for tree planting. They had asked the Parish Council for advice on land ownership on an informal basis. The Parish Council had welcomed their approach and reiterated that they would be pleased to assist where possible.

55.4.2 Ashwell Doctors' Surgery. The next meeting of the Ashwell & Bassingbourn Patients Group, in which the Parish Council would participate, was scheduled for the first week of December. Positive comments had been received re new arrangements at the Surgery in particular the availability of face-to-face appointments at Ashwell.

55.4.3 Dixies Meadow/advertisement for sale. Information gathering on various options was still ongoing. The assurance that public consultation would take place before any action was taken was reiterated.

55.4.4 The Ruddy/Rights of way Review. It was understood that the HCC consultation would commence shortly and an update from the rights of way officer had been requested.

55.4.5 Conservation Area review by NHDC. *See 56 below.*

56. WORKING GROUP REPORTS

56.1 Conservation Area Review Group (leader Parishioner David Short). Graham Lee reported that a further meeting of the group was scheduled. A small number of additions to the current conservation area, and the justification for these to be proposed, was being discussed. The deadline for these to go to the NHDC consultant was the end of November.

56.2 Neighbourhood Plan Group (leader Cllr Graham Lee, deputy Cllr Norton Mahy). Norton Mahy reported that the minor adjustments required were being made. The plan was scheduled to go to the NHDC Cabinet meeting in December.

56.3 Local business support (leader Cllr Graham Lee). Graham Lee reported that he had been invited to participate in the NHDC Cabinet Panel 'The Future of our Centres' on 8th November. He had been asked to report on the impact of Covid on the community and local businesses, and what changes there might be in the future.

56.4 Trees and Hedges Group (leader Cllr David Sims). David Sims reported on progress with the plans for additional planting at Small Gains and the Recreation Ground.

56.5 Yearbook Group (leader Cllr Norton Mahy). Norton Mahy reported that all was on plan for the 2022 edition. The current printer had put their prices up and next year alternative quotes would be obtained.

End of Open Forum/Standing Orders reinstated from here.

57. MONTHLY REPORTS ON PREMISES/OTHER RESPONSIBILITIES FROM PARISH COUNCILLORS.


(v) **The Village Hall.** The trustees and the user's group had been discussing various options but it was understood that they had yet to agree on a firm proposal that could be put to the Parish Council re its involvement. One option could include the Parish Council having a nominated trustee. As this was different to what had previously been proposed the Village Hall had been requested to put their preferred option in writing once agreed so that the Parish Council could discuss this and formally respond.

64.5 WORKING GROUP REPORTS

(i) **Neighbourhood Plan Group,** (leader Cllr Graham Lee, deputy Cllr Norton Mahy). The plan was to be on the agenda of the December NHDC meeting for their approval. Following this a date for the referendum would be set.

(ii) **Trees and Hedges Group** (leader Cllr David Sims). Quotes for planting at Small Gains and the Recreation Ground were expected soon.

(iii) **Yearbook Group** (leader Cllr Norton Mahy). The Deputy Clerk was commended for the number of advert bookings that she had achieved to date and more might be added in January. All contributors were reminded that the copy deadline was 1st December.

 (iv) **Conservation Area Review Group** (leader David Short). The group leader and other members were commended on the excellent report that they had produced. This had been sent to the consultants commissioned by NHDC to carry out the review. Their draft report was due to go to NHDC in February and would be followed by a public consultation later in the year.

End of Open Forum/Standing Orders were reinstated from here.

65. MONTHLY REPORTS ON PREMISES/OTHER RESPONSIBILITIES FROM PARISH COUNCILLORS.

See also appendices below.

(i) **The Springs.** Cllr Martin Hoffman reported that a site visit with a representative from the Countryside Management Service had been arranged to determine what input they might contribute to updating the management plan and leading volunteer working parties.

(ii) **Playground.** Cllr Gemma Allan reported that further consultation on new equipment would take place once a response to the funding bid to the Henry Colbron Trust had been received.

66. PLANNING MATTERS

See appendix below with a summary of recent NHDC consultations and their status.

66.1 New consultations received from NHDC.

66.1.1 No.12 Newnham Way. NHDC ref. 21/03101/FPH

Full Permission Householder: Single storey rear extension, undercroft storage area and reworking of existing patio to include additional side steps.

It was noted that no public comments had, to date, been posted on the NHDC website or received by the Parish Council.



71.5.3 Yearbook Group (leader Cllr Norton Mahy). Norton Mahy reported that all was good for the 2022 edition and distribution planned for March 5/6th.

71.5.4 Conservation Area Review Group (leader David Short). Nothing further to report as pending information from NHDC.

End of Open Forum/Standing Orders reinstated from here.

72. MONTHLY REPORTS ON PREMISES/OTHER RESPONSIBILITIES FROM PARISH COUNCILLORS.

See appendices below for summary of actions completed, actions ongoing and other premises matters.

72.1 The Springs. Cllr Martin Hoffman reported.

72.1.1 Site visit and report by the Countryside Management Service. This had taken place just before Christmas and had been useful. Plans for new bins and fencing works would now be progressed. It was envisaged that most maintenance tasks would continue to be undertaken by volunteers.

72.1.2 Flow rate concerns. *See also 71.1.3 above.* Contact had been made with the Environment Agency (EA), the authority responsible for monitoring and maintaining the flows in line with the statutory requirements of the SSSI (Site of Special Scientific Interest). The EA monitors the flows daily and also sends the data to the Parish Council on a monthly basis. Following the recent enquiry the EA responded promptly and assured that the flow rates recorded by their monitoring gauge, and hence the water levels, were within the satisfactory range. The flow rates were a combination of the rainfall onto the chalk scarp (with a three-month percolation delay) and the extraction by the water company under its license. If enhancement is required the EA turns on a transfer pump based out at Redlands to ensure that the flows at the Springs are maintained. This protects the unique ice-age flatworms that are the reason for the SSSI status. The EA had commended the Parish Council and local residents for their interest and input.

72.2 The Rec and playground. Cllr Gemma Allan reported.

The bid to the Henry Colbron Trust to fund a refurbishment and some new equipment aimed particularly at older children had been successful. She also thanked County Cllr Steve Jarvis for his contribution. As this would be a significant expenditure further consultation with stakeholders would be undertaken before plans were finalised and progressed. She was minded to seek volunteer input from outside the Parish Council to help progress this.

73. PLANNING MATTERS

73.1 New consultations received from NHDC.

73.1.1 No.13 Dixies Close. NHDC ref. 21/03386/FPH

Full Permission Householder: Single storey side and rear extension following demolition of existing detached side elevation outbuilding. Formation of dropped kerb to the highway.

It was noted that no public comments had, to date, been posted on the NHDC website or received by the Parish Council.