

Minutes of OSWG meeting on 26 / 11 / 19

attendance - Amanda Townsend, Margaret Piper, Margaret Hall, Alan Cook & Anne Oliver (Clerk)

1) Playpark - playboat ropes have been fixed and no other issues

2) Footpaths - Clerk has written to Landowners re - Japanese Knotweed

3) Broadoak Plantation - AT presented letter to Tilhill seeking approval to place picnic benches in glade. The letter also sought approval for noticeboards at either end of woodland, the style of boards and benches. AT showed a leaflet illustrating the benches which was agreed. The letter sought approval by Christmas which if not received approval would be assumed to be granted.

4) Dog fouling - another incident has been reported to EDDC

5) Grounds maintenance - The clerk presented a sheet showing 4 companies had submitted tenders for grass cutting. A further company requested extra time which was granted until end of this week. Following detailed discussion a recommendation to Council was agreed.

6) Lengthsmen - S. Hart has withdrawn from the contract. It was agreed to prepare an advert for a Lengthsmen for 2020. Advert to go out on 6 / 1 / 20 with the intention to be able to place a contract at the February meeting. It was agreed that the work would be to cut verges at corners of roads in July and September, also to clear and clean signs at this time. A further item of work would be to trim road edges more thoroughly in September. The contract would need to have facility to undertake other work as directed (partly in support of DCC operations) (ditches etc) this will require an agreed hourly rate. The clerk proposed deferring the grant application for this work until 1Q2020. Following detailed discussion a recommendation to Council was agreed.

6) Himalayan Balsam - It was acknowledged that the proposal to have volunteers at a weekend was unlikely to be practical as contractors did not want to work on Sundays. This work will need to be tendered early in 2020 and it will need to include disposal of the weed (burning on site). The clerk proposed deferring the grant application for this work until 1Q2020.

7) Trees - The 'Special trees of West Hill' report was accepted. There was a lengthy discussion about the council's position on trees with the intent that we should try to coordinate actions within the village. (Facebook comments and other initiatives) This will need further discussion to prepare the way forward.

There was no other business and meeting closed at 3.45

Next Meeting 14th January @ 2pm (Alan's house)