



Minutes of the Spout Hills Meeting held on Tuesday 8th March at 4.30pm at Nelson House.

Attending: Cllr Philip Wright (Chairman), Tony Leech (Vice-Chair), Cllr Bryan Payne, Cllr Ben Philo, Fiona Jolliffe, George Rudd, Paul Dulson and Town Clerk Gemma Harrison.

0 members of the public were present.

1. Election of Chairman

1.1 The Chairman was PROPOSED as Cllr Wright by Tony Leech, this was SECONDED by Cllr Payne and AGREED by all.

2. Election of Vice Chairman

2.1 Cllr Wright PROPOSED Tony Leech as Vice Chairman, this was SECONDED by Cllr Philo and AGREED by all.

3. Apologies

3.1 Apologies were received by Cllr Smith and accepted.

4. Declarations of Interest

4.1 Tony Leech declared he was a member of the Holt Society and River Glaven Conservation Group.

5. Agree the minutes of the meeting of the Spout Hills Committee on 21st October (circulated prior to the meeting).

5.1 The minutes were PROPOSED by Cllr Payne and SECONDED by Fiona Jolliffe and AGREED by all.

6. Matters Arising

6.1 The interpretation Board is with Cheverton's for a quote.

6.2 The Open Spaces Leaflet is being finalised with the Clerk and HTC Cllr Moore before being sent to be printed.

6.3 A dog has been buried on Spout Hills; it was AGREED that effort should be made to find out who the dog belongs to.

CLOSE THE MEETING FOR PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Public Participation

None present.

7. To discuss the recent clearance on Spout Hills.

7.1 Cllr Philo stated that chipping the scrub was difficult due to the mixture of materials, which made it difficult to work through. Tony Leech explained that the timing of the clearance was poor, although the broom clearance was approved it should not have been removed in February, whilst the gorse was in full flower.

It was AGREED not to cut the broom in February again and to ensure any broom clearance is carried out much earlier. Cllr Wright stated that he had met with the two residents who had written to HTC and raised concerns about the clearance, and they were happy with the explanation provided.

7.2 Tony Leech AGREED to write a seasonal template and send to the Clerk for distribution.

7.3 It was AGREED that better communication was needed in between meetings with regards the works on Spout Hills.

8. To agree the works for both Spout Hills and Little Hills for Spring/Summer 2022.

8.1 Tony Leech circulated an information sheet on mowing March to September which can be seen at Appendix A. The Information sheet was AGREED with the following comments.

8.2 It was AGREED to cut an area around the tree over the stream on the right to allow for families to sit there in the summer months.

8.3 It was AGREED to cut both sides of the stream from the pond to the outlet at the point where the stream leaves Spout Hills, but not from Chapmans Field to where the stream meets the stream from the pond.

8.4 It was AGREED that volunteers can rake vegetation into piles for the Maintenance Team to collect and take to the compost area.

8.5 Cllr Wright stated that less grass cutting will take place this year, the priority is to keep all paths open and safe.

8.6 The outlet pipe from the pond may have a leak. It was AGREED to dig up the pipe to see if there is a leak and fix if appropriate.

8.7 Cllr Wright would like to tidy up the stream in and between the bridges, this would involve raking the stream bed to provide an area for children to play in. This was AGREED by the committee.

8.8 The outlet pipe between Spout Hills and the old Rectory blocks up, it needs to be kept clear. It was AGREED that Cllr Wright and Cllr Payne will speak to adjacent landowner to investigate what works are needed.

8.9 The Holly will be looked at in the Autumn.

8.10 It was AGREED to secure piles of rotting logs in wooded areas to prevent people moving them and trying to build campfires.

8.11 It was AGREED that volunteers will work on levelling the path from the pavement on Letheringsett Hill onto the Little Hills to make it passable. It was AGREED that steps are needed on this footpath where it joins the pavement adjacent to Letheringsett Hill. Further steps are also needed on the footpath by St. John's cottage as the corner is washing out.

8.12 The volunteers can help by cutting the grass areas on The Little Hills with the DR machines.

8.13 The Clerk noted to ask NCC whether there would be an increase in the grass cutting donation.

8.14 The committee AGREED to pile the leaves on Little Hills in one area on the bank rather than along the whole bank.

9. To consider tree planting on Spout Hills

9.1 It was AGREED to plant a mixture of trees in the two hedgerows adjacent to the railway steps, the trees will be sympathetically planted.

9.2 Planting memorial trees on Spout Hills was discussed and it was AGREED to look at this on a case-by-case basis. It was Suggested that a specimen oak tree is planted on town meadow as part of the town's Jubilee celebrations.

10. Correspondence

10.1 Already discussed under item 8.

11. John Allison's Memorial Bench

11.1 John Allison's bench has arrived and will be placed on Town Meadow at the top of the slope, it will replace a rotten rustic bench currently in situ.

12. To discuss the Pipe from the Spring to the pond and possible remedial works.

12.1 Discussed above at 8.6.

12.2 George Rudd handed his resignation letter to Cllr Wright. The whole committee thanked George for all his help, support and hard work over the years. They all wished George all the very best for the future and stated they hoped to still see George on the hills as they valued his help and advice. Clerk to send a copy of the minutes to George.

12.3 It was noted that anyone using the machines and equipment must ensure they are returned in a clean condition.

14. Date and time of next meeting to take place in September 2022.

It was noted that the Spout Hills Committee now has two vacancies, recruitment of new members will be added to the next meetings Agenda.

The Meeting ended 17.55

Appendix A

Grass cutting contact to be forwarded by Tony and included here.