

# Chudleigh Town Council

# **Environment committee**

# 29th January 2020 at 7pm

## Public Participation:

None

## In attendance:

Councillors Frost (Chair), Boston, Bushell, Castle, John Evans, Bennett. Co-opted members Nick Walter and Mike Moyse. Also, in attendance Amii Shelley (Deputy Clerk)

## Apologies:

Received from Councillors Webb, Tinkler, Shaw and Bellchambers.

## Declaration of members’ interests:

None.

## Confirmation of Part 1 and 2 of the meeting:

The chair advised there would be a part 2

## Urgent matters brought forward by the Chairman:

Councillors were asked to consider moving a dog waste bin from the junction of Brocklands, to the footpath that leads from the sports centre, towards Hams Barton. If the waste bin was moved it would be on private land, costing the council £750.00 per annum for emptying. At this current time Councillors decided against moving the bin and will put up signage to encourage people to use the bins already in place. **Action point 1.** Councillor Frost proposed the expenditure of £250.00 for urgent groundworks, to remove a Laurel at Culver Green, and pollard a Willow at Millstream Meadow. This was seconded by Councillor Boston, and all councillors voted in favour. **Action point 2**

## Progress on action points from the meeting on 15th October 2019:

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Action Point | Action Required | By whom | Completed |
| 1 | Arrange for the railings to be painted near the red oak at Culver Green | Councillor Castle | Carried forwardAction point 3 |
| 2 | Seek quotes for the walled garden at the cemetery & alternative memorials for plaques | Amii Shelley | Carried forwardAction point 4 |
| 3 | Seek advice from tree officer and Brian Beasley about a suitable replacement tree for the Beech at Culver | Councillor Frost | Completed |
| 4 | Propose to the committee a plan for the paved are on Colway Lane | Councillor’s Bellchambers, Castle, Baxter, Boston and Bushell | Committee decided not to proceed |
| 5 | Bring a proposal to the next committee meeting for what map layers are required | Councillor Castle | Carried forwardAction point 5 |
| 6 | Arrange for the gatepost to be moved from Exeter Road allotments to Culver Green | Councillor Bushell | Carried forwardAction point 6 |
| 7 | Look for funding for Town Hall renovations to reduce energy consumption | All Councillors | Committee decided not to proceed |
| 8 | Look at renewable energy suppliers when the Councils energy contracts come up for renewal in 2021 | John Carlton | Completed |
| 9 | Increase tree planting in open spaces | All Councillors | Completed |
| 10 | Put dog poo bags at Fore Street park | All Councillors | Carried forwardAction point 7 |
| 11 | Organise for the weeding outside the old riding stables in Woodway Street | All Councillors | Carried forwardAction point 8 |
| 12 | Email the Clifford Estate reference footpath by Rock Road | Councillor Boston | Completed |
| 13 | Weed planter at Colway Lane  | Councillor Boston | Carried forwardAction point 9 |
| 14 | Organise recycling point at the Town Hall for teracycling  | All councillors | Carried forwardAction point 10 |
| 15 | Look at locations for possible dirt jump site | All Councillors | Completed |
| 16 | Contact fencing contractors for MUGA fencing quote | Amii Shelley | Completed |
| 17 | Look for alternative options for weed control, within the 30mph limit | All Councillors | Completed |
| 18 | Create a grass verge maintenance programme  | All Councillors | Completed |
| 19 | Organise a playpark consultation at Palace Meadow | All Councillors | Carried forwardAction point 11 |
| 20 | Arrange for another playpark contractor to quote for the redesign at Palace Meadow | Amii Shelley | Carried forwardAction point 12 |
| 21 | Contact Teignbridge regarding campervan parking in the carpark | John Carlton | Carried forwardAction point 13 |
| 22 | Contact Linden Homes about road sweeping during 8:30-9:30am | John Carlton | Completed |
| 23 | Organise to Host and Otter for summer 2020 | Councillor Castle | Completed |
| 24 | Purchase 2 replacement benches for the cemetery | Amii Shelley | Completed |
| 25 | Check provenance of recycled plastic benches | Amii Shelley | Completed |
| 26 | Propose the expenditure of purchasing 2 concrete bins for the cemetery to Full Council in November | John Carlton | Completed |

## Ratification of Tree Management Strategy:

Proposed by Councillor Boston, seconded by Councillor Bennett, all voted in favour **appendix 1**. Further to the tree management plan, Councillor Frost proposed a strategy for managing public open spaces, this was seconded by Councillor Castle and unanimously agreed. **Appendix 2.** Councillors would like both documents to be displayed on the Council website **action point 14.**

## Footpaths:

Mike Moyse has arranged a meeting with Devon County Council, regarding a collapsed stone wall on footpath 15a **action point 15** Councillor’s would like to arrange for some hardcore to be put down on the extremely damp area of footpath 1 **action point 16.** The land owner of footpath 1, is considering fencing sections off, to encourage people to stick to the footpath **action point 17.**

## Colway Lane:

Nothing to report

## Two Oaks:

Councillor’s are exploring the possibility of an information board, within the sensory garden **action point 18**

## Chudleigh Map:

Nothing to report.

## Recycling:

Nothing to report

## Millstream Meadow:.

Ben Nock fencing have been contracted to replace the missing fencing boards near the skatepark.

## Pump Track at Millstream:

We are currently going through the tendering process regarding the design of a new pump track.

## Culver Green:

A volunteer group has been set up to help maintain the area. Councillor’s are looking at the possibility of planting more trees, preferably small whips, within the park, but are looking at what trees and locations would be suitable **action point 19**

## Fore Street Park:

Councillor’s unanimously agreed, to propose to Full Council an agreement in principle to net the MUFA roof **action point 20**

## The Gardens:

Nothing to report

## Palace Meadow Park:

The decision was made to create a design specification, to be able to go out to tender for the play park works. **action point 21.** Councillor Evans has requested more information on a timeline involving the available funding for the area. **Action point 22**

## Highways Issues:

Councillor’s unanimously agreed to a 12-month trial period, where routine weeding spraying was no longer carried out. Instead they would like to monitor the area for any problem sections, and make a decision on management on each case **action point 23**

## Correspondence and Clerk’s report:

Councillor Castle proposed the expenditure of £150.00 to produce a newsletter in partnership with Chudleigh Wild, that will be delivered to homes in Chudleigh, covering environmental topics people can get involved in on their doorstep. This was seconded by Councillor Frost, and all voted in favour. **Action point 24**

## Allotments:

Nothing to report

## Cemetery:

Nothing to report

## Action plan for 2020:

Councillor’s decided to carry this item forward to the next meeting in April. **Action point 25**

Meeting closed at 9.00pm

Date of next meeting 22nd April 2020

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Action Point | Action Required | By whom |
| 1 | Display signage to encourage use of dog waste bins at Footpath 1 | Councillor Castle |
| 2 | Organise pollarding of the Willow at Millstream and the removal of the Laurel at Culver Green | John Carlton/Amii Shelley |
| 3 | Arrange for the railings to be painted near the red oak at Culver Green | Councillor Castle |
| 4 | Seek quotes for the walled garden at the cemetery & alternative memorials for plaques | Amii Shelley |
| 5 | Bring a proposal to the next committee meeting for what map layers are required | Councillor Castle |
| 6 | Arrange for the gatepost to be moved from Exeter Road allotments to Culver Green | Councillor Bushell |
| 7 | Put dog poo bags at Fore Street park | All Councillors |
| 8 | Organise for the weeding outside the old riding stables in Woodway Street | All Councillors |
| 9 | Weed planter at Colway Lane  | Councillor Boston |
| 10 | Organise recycling point at the Town Hall for terracycling  | All councillors |
| 11 | Organise a playpark consultation at Palace Meadow | All Councillors |
| 12 | Arrange for another playpark contractor to quote for the redesign at Palace Meadow | Amii Shelley |
| 13 | Contact Teignbridge regarding campervan parking in the carpark | John Carlton |
| 14 | Display Tree management, and open spaces strategies on the website | Amii Shelley |
| 15 | Feedback to the committee following a meeting with DCC reference footpath 15a | Mike Moyse |
| 16 | Obtain a quote for hardcore on footpath 1 | Amii Shelley |
| 17 | Include ‘the right use of footpaths’ in next newsletter article | John Carlton |
| 18 | Measure the sensory garden to make sure it will still be accessible, with information board | Councillor Frost |
| 19 | Identify tree species and locations for Culver Green | All Councillors |
| 20 | Propose agreement in principle to Full Council for MUGA netting | John Carlton |
| 21 | Create a playpark specification for Palace Meadow | Councillor Castle |
| 22 | Find out the deadlines on 106 money use for Palace meadow | John Carlton |
| 23 | Monitor highways within the 30mph limit for weed growth | All Councillors |
| 24 | Produce and distribute environmental newsletter | Councillor Castle |
| 25 | Plan the committees aims for 2020 | All Councillors |

## Appendix 1 - Tree Management Plan

# CHUDLEIGH TOWN COUNCIL

CHUDLEIGH TOWN HALL

MARKET WAY

CHUDLEIGH

NEWTON ABBOT

DEVON TQ13 0HL

Tel: 01626 853140

Email: Clerk@chudleigh-tc.gov.uk

Clerk: John Carlton



Office Hours

Monday to Friday

9am - 3pm

**TREE MANAGEMENT PLAN**

Managing the risk from trees is the responsibility of the owners and managers of the land on which they grow.

The Town Council’s tree management strategy is underpinned by a set of five key principles:

● trees provide a wide variety of benefits to society

● trees are living organisms that naturally lose branches or fall

● the overall risk to human safety is extremely low

● tree owners have a legal duty of care

● tree owners should take a balanced and proportionate approach to tree safety

Management

The Town Council owns four areas of land on which there are trees of significant size. These are:-

* The cemetery at Exeter Road, Chudleigh
* Culver Green
* Two Oaks
* Millstream Meadow

The management plan for these sites will consist of four levels of inspection:-

### Visual inspection for obvious defects:

These inspections will be carried out by Town Council staff on a weekly basis when they visit the sites to inspect the play parks and empty bins. The staff carrying this out have no expertise in tree management and are only expected to identify the most obvious of defects. This might include large fungal growths on the trunk, splitting or other obvious wind and weather damage, fallen limbs and changes in the structural appearance of the tree. Obvious defects will be reported to the Town Clerk who will decide whether a more detailed inspection or other remedial action is necessary

### Formal inspections and risk assessments:

The Town Council will, on a regular basis arrange for all trees of significant size on their land holdings to be inspected and risk assessed by a qualified person with expertise in tree management and risk assessment. The sites will be subject to the following inspection regime:-

1. Culver Green: Last inspected in October 2018. Recommended for further inspection in two years. Inspection booked for October 2020.
2. The Cemetery: Last inspected December 2016. Recommended for further inspection in 2019.
3. Millstream Meadow: Last inspected in January 2018. Recommended for further inspection in 2 years.
4. Two Oaks: Last detailed inspection in January 2018. Annual monitoring and detailed inspection in 2019. Annual monitoring inspection was carried out in September 2018.

Recommendations arising from these inspections will be acted upon within the timescales advised by the person carrying out the inspection. Recommendations to either fell a tree or to carry out significant pruning will be shared with the Tree Officer at Teignbridge District Council and will only be undertaken when he has given his consent.

### Inspection by the District Council’s tree officer:

If the visual or formal inspection regime identifies significant faults with any trees that are covered by a Tree Preservation Order or are considered by the Town Council to be of significant heritage value then the Tree Officer should be asked to conduct a site visit before any work is carried out

John Carlton

Town Clerk

12 September 2018

## Appendix 2 – Proposed Tree Management Strategy

Proposed Tree Management Strategy for Trees on Public Open Spaces in Chudleigh

The trees cared for by the Town Council are inspected regularly by an expert arboriculturalist, as shown in the tree management plan which we need to adopt. These inspections are risk assessments and recommendations that are made to safeguard the public and property.

As vegetation grows and changes, we need to have plans that consider the aims of the Council, and the wants and needs of the residents. In November 2019 councillors and expert naturalists from Chudleigh WILD walked the parks and discussed what might be done. The following suggestions are the result of the discussion and have been approved of by Doug Pratt, Arboriculturalist.

### Millstream Meadow

1. Remove in turn; Italian Alder and white Poplar, (alien species) and trees growing too large for the site.
2. Leave the trees on the bank to look after themselves for the foreseeable future
3. Allow the top hedge to become wider and taller. Planting 3-4 Oaks (saplings from Twin Oaks), with fencing to protect from mowing, dogs etc. (grass will need to be removed from around the saplings)
4. At the brook edge, coppice Hazel and Native Alder. Pollard the Willow, as above in turn, not all at once.
5. Plant fruit and nut trees at the orchard on the bank at the Cricketfield end of the park. Consider planting a Walnut tree.
6. Ask for volunteers to prune the current fruit trees as well as any future trees.

### Twin Oaks

1. Remove Turkey Oak and Ash saplings
2. Coppice Hazel and Willow as necessary, to form pathways through the undergrowth.
3. Support Carole Smart in her efforts to develop information boards.

### Culver Green

1. Remove Pear trees or plant a Walnut tree at the northern patch (these may grow large and cast a heavy shade preventing vigorous growth of other trees) these can be summer pruned.
2. Remove Laurel overhanging the wall at the boule piste (this already arranged) Reduce size of other Laurels.
3. Plant specimen trees on the mound, Native Oak or Small Leaved Lime are possible, with some form of tree guard.

### Top of Oldway

1. The whitebeam overhanging the foot and roadway will be cut back (subject to Highways approval)

###  General principles

1. Arrangements will be made with residents to water the trees and clear grass from around the trees when they are young
2. It is preferable for the long-term health of trees, that young trees, whips, are planted. They are also better value for money.
3. Overhanging brambles and briars will be removed two or three times throughout the growing season when necessary.
4. Ivy will be cut back from walls, the stone grotto, and trees as necessary.
5. The mowing of the grass will continue to be contracted out, as will the removal of large trees.
6. As part of the moves to enhance the communities working together, volunteer groups will be encouraged to take responsibility, to keep the parks looking as good as possible.
7. These plans will be reviewed annually or more often if necessary.

There are no plans for Palace meadow at this time, as it still belongs to TDC. We know there are several Ash that will need to be removed from this area because of die-back. There will be an opportunity for other planting, particularly Small leaved Lime at the Bat Garden, and fruit trees and bushes at the top of north end of the park.

Tessa Frost

21.01.2020