

The Initial Brief

Minutes 26 November 2019

TREE PLANTING AND LANDSCAPING PROPOSALS FOR ABBEY ROAD.

The Chairman updated that an interim meeting had taken place with the working party on 13th November'19 to discuss the two proposed plans previously submitted to the Council and members of the public in attendance at this Amenities committee meeting helped report details.

1 Access for Tractor adjacent Hedgerows on both sides to be taken into account. Cllr Campbell proposed, seconded by Cllr Lloyd, that this committee authorises the establishment of two lengths of new hedgerow extending to approximately ninety linear metres on ARVG on the North side of Abbey Road (ARVG North). The approximate location of the new hedgerows is shown marked A-E and D-C on the sketch plan initialled by the Clerk this evening—which is an updated version of the one in the supporting papers. {NB Clerk to please annex initialled plan to these minutes}. The hedgerow plants are to be provided by representatives of the “Steyning for Trees” Community Group which must work with the Council’s Clerk and the two councillor representatives (Sarah Sullivan and Paul Campbell) to agree precise locations and extent, species, and all health and safety protocols which must be formally signed off by the Clerk before work starts. Agreed -Unanimous

Area of ‘Winter Pond’ to be marked out by Roger Brown. Cllr Campbell proposed, seconded by Cllr S. Sullivan, that this committee directs the Clerk to obtain quotes for such work(to be carried out in an environmentally friendly manner)as is required to remove the self-seeded trees and saplings within the “winter pond” area up to a maximum cost of £400with the aim of preventing this area of valuable habitat from being lost. Agreed -Unanimous

Cllr Campbell proposed, seconded by Cllr Alexander that this committee supports the principle of well-spaced specimen trees for both carbon sequestration and amenity purposes being planted broadly parallel to, and close to, Abbey Road and authorises the working party to explore financing options including grants with the aim of the scheme being at a nil cost to the Parish Council through the establishment of a memorial donation scheme and grants. The working party is also requested to produce a location and species plan, including an accessible all weather wheel-chair accessible path in accordance with the Council’s Equalities Duty, with a view to future approval by the Committee and particularly having in mind the need not to adversely affect the use of ARVG on the South side of Abbey Road (ARVG South) for sporting use. Agreed -Unanimous

Cllr Campbell proposed, seconded by Cllr Goldsmith that the committee directs the Clerk to ensure that the new grass cutting contract scheduled to commence in 2020 makes provision for the sports area of ARVG South being mown once per week (currently it is once per fortnight).Agreed - Unanimous.

Substantive on site meetings have taken place on 13 November 2019 and on 13 March 2020 (separate papers on SPC website Items numbered 9.2 for meeting of 26 May 2020)

28 April 2020 DRAFT minutes say

MEMORIAL PLAYING FIELD and OTHER OPEN SPACE

Abbey Road planting proposals – The Chair reported that the proposed tree and hedgerow planting events have been postponed to an unspecified date given the Covid – 19 crisis. Regarding the winter pond: Cllr Campbell summarised the supporting paper 6.1.1. A meeting took place on the 13th March 2020 involving two members from the ‘Steining for Trees’ Group, a member of the ‘Steining Community Orchard’ Group, a representative from the SDNPA – Craig Daters (Lead Ranger), and Cllrs Campbell and S. Sullivan.

Mr Daters advised on the pond’s management. He recommended the removal of the self-sown trees within the pond and treatment of the stumps with Glyphosate to be done over two to three years. Also, some of the large water-edge willows; starting with the largest this year. All to help prevent the pond drying out too early in the year. Non-native plants need removing from the water’s edge. Excavating to increase the depth would not be appropriate.

Cllr Campbell **proposed, seconded** by Cllr Alexander for the Clerk to be given delegated responsibility, with the Chair if necessary because of the sum involved, to instruct a contractor(s) after obtaining up to 3 quotes (all to be liaised with Roger Brown) to:-

- 1) Cut half of the self-rooted trees within the winter pond area, and to treat the stumps with Glyphosate and then stash the resulting brash at the rear of the site (by-pass slope). **Agreed;**
- 2) Fell the largest of the willows and similarly treat the stump and felled timber and brash
Agreed

Based on anticipated enthusiasm from the caretakers, the Clerk and Deputy Clerk also agreed that one or more of the caretakers would be charged with removing the non-native plants from the water margins in liaison with Roger Brown

The Chair also summarised the Steining for Trees Group newsletter (supporting paper 6.1.1) concerning the grant they had obtained and the potential CPRE award they had entered for. He also publicised their email address for potential subscribers SteiningForTrees@gmail.com

Clerk reported on sponsored tree situation with particular regard to correspondence with resident who had wanted a memorial tree on the MPF. The woman in question had been informed that the Amenities Committee had decided future memorial tree donations were to be directed towards Abbey Road in liaison with the Trees for Steining Grou. Although she was not interested in that option she is pursuing the purchase of a memorial bench with SPC for an MPF installation instead.

Paul Campbell 20 May 2020