

AAPC Agenda Notes – January 2021

Portfolio Outstanding Actions:

Policy – Cllr Jordan:

Amenities – Cllr Howard:

Ongoing activities for the Amenities Portfolio continue to be the Church Path and Churchyard Footpaths projects and Play Areas.

Church Path Fence - The Clerk has notified the successful contractor and asked that the work does not proceed before 15th March 2021, by which time we will know whether our application for a CAF grant from TVBC has been successful. The Clerk has submitted the grant application and we wait to see if TVBC has any queries.

Churchyard Footpaths - The Clerk is busy answering a query from TVBC on the 'Root Bridge' to be used for safeguarding the roots of the large Lime tree by the East end of the church.

Play Areas - I leave this for Clare Coffey to update us on how her community consultation, in the form of a questionnaire, is proceeding.

New Activities:

Churchyard/Burial Ground - Larkstel have at our request kindly produced a plan of all trees and bushes in the Churchyard/ Burial Ground. The Clerk and I will be discussing with Anne Jones, our Environment Lead, how best to proceed with a maintenance Faculty and Planning permission and when/how to proceed with a wider survey of all trees which are the responsibility of AAPC.

Church Path - My attention was drawn to the unsafe state of parts of Church Path when a woman tripped on it as we passed. So the Clerk and I have agreed that I will take photographs of the worst bits for the her to use to draw the attention of HCC.

Amenities (Play Areas) - Cllr Coffey: No update.

Environment – Cllr Jones:

I met with John Moon on Wednesday and discussed the clearance of the copse and also installation and maintenance of the interpretation board for the wildflower meadow. This is covered in the attached note I have written on the development of the Green and will be discussed at the meeting (see Appendix 1). I have taken photos of the kissing gate and these have been forwarded to Andy Aitkin at HCC Countryside Service to determine ownership and whether it can be removed.

Development & Infrastructure – Cllr Roberts: No update.

Sports & Recreation – Cllr Wallis:

Work on the pavilion refurb has stalled because of the Covid situation and there have been no football matches for the same reason.

Wellbeing – Cllr Jones: No update.

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Clerk Report January 2021

Actions from the meeting held on 3rd December 2020:

Item 10 b – Contacted contractor and reminded him of the areas needing attention in the churchyard/burial ground.

Item 12 – Sent written notification to Vita Play Ltd to terminate the contract with AAPC, received confirmation email of receipt.

Item 13 – Contacted HCC to confirm no deadline for confirming the choice of replacement bus shelter. Cllr Jordan has put an article in Parish magazine to canvass community. A copy of the article is displayed in the bus shelter at Bulbery.

Item 14 – sent draft Census survey answers to Cllr Jordan.

Updates:

- FOTASS have donated £3500.00 to cover net cost of invoice for the viability study provided by HCC Property Services.
- An inspection has been carried out on the oak tree in the grounds of WMH – report has been circulated to Cllrs. Sub Arb Ltd have been asked to provide a quotation for the recommended works.

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Appendix 1

Ongoing Development of Abbots Ann Green

Back in 2014 it was agreed that the former playing field of Abbots Ann Primary School would be leased to the Parish Council to provide an open space for the benefit of villagers. In January 2017 Abbots Ann Parish Council agreed to fund improvements to the Green including the movement of the wildflower meadow, installation of the fence around the new wildflower meadow and clearance of the overgrown copse which lies on the western side of The Green.

Although there was a previous attempt to clear some of the debris that had been dumped in the copse it still remains overgrown and does pose a safety risk to children who may wish to play in it, as pointed out in a recent complaint by a local resident. Old broken bottles and large pieces of masonry, covered by ivy, make the ground uneven and dangerous. The copse consists of two large sycamore trees which cover an area of approximately 20 x 15 metres. Within this area there are other saplings, including a small, leaning birch tree and at least two small plum trees. Overgrown branches from the sycamore trees and other low-lying vegetation makes access to the copse difficult.

Hidden within the copse is the old village water pump which could be renovated and made into a historical feature with an explanatory sign. In addition, there is the potential to add a semi-circular seating area outside the copse that would face eastwards towards the Green and would catch the morning sun. This area could be used for peaceful contemplation.

I propose that AAPC get quotes for the clearance of the copse to include;

- tidying the area, removal of masonry, litter and ivy,
- cutting back the bed floor and make even. Remove most of the saplings, including the leaning birch, with the exception of the plum trees and a few other complimentary saplings/bushes (to be decided),
- raising the crowns of the two sycamore trees by 2 metres,
- disposal of all rubbish created by the clearance and cutting of the trees

Wildflower Meadow

David Read will be leaving the village soon so Abbots Ann Green Action will be closing. AAPC approval is required for the installation of the interpretation board purchased by AAGA. John Moon has kindly agreed to install the board in the wildflower meadow and to maintain it for the time being.

Cllr Anne Jones

07.01.21