

Lawford Parish Council



Minutes of the Public Realm Committee Meeting held virtually via Zoom on Monday 1 February 2021 at 7.00pm.

Members of the public were welcome to attend. Requests for the link and password to join the meeting to have been received by 11am on the day of the meeting to clerk@lawfordpc.org.uk

Clerk to the Council: Mrs Peachey

MINUTES

1. Present:

Councillors C Guglielmi (Host) Adcock-Jones (Chair), Pretty, Thurlow, Barrett and Newman-Wright
Clerk: Mrs Peachey (Co-host)

Apologies for Absence:

Cllr Woods

Members of the public:

1 member of the public joined the meeting at 19.53 to offer assistance with Summers Park issues.

2. Minutes:

To approve minutes of the **Public Realm** meeting held **Monday 7 December 2020**.

Proposed: Cllr Pretty **Seconded:** Cllr Newman-Wright **Agreed**
(Clerk will deliver minutes to Chairman for signing)

3. Action Points from the meetings held on 7 December 2020:

Following minor amendments, the School Lane signs were approved. Clerk to arrange for them to be produced and installed. (Dave C has the signs ready to install)	Completed
Some councillors had not received the posted Projects spreadsheets and it was agreed this be carried forward to Full Council on 21 st December 2020.	Completed

4. Declarations of interest:

Cllr Pretty – Treasurer of the Frankenberg Partnership

5. Frankenberg Partnership Association:

Cllr Pretty advised venues and caterers have been provisionally booked for the hoped-for Civic Event planned for October.

6. Summers Park (*Addressed when Mr Chester joined the meeting at 19.53*)

- a) Following a site meeting on Wednesday 27th January when Mr Chester, representatives from Rose Builders, Mr Childs, Cllrs C Guglielmi and Thurlow, soil samples were dug at various positions throughout Summers Park. Council were advised it was apparent from those samples the soil is clay which does not let surface water drain through it. Mr Chester advised there was little that could be done to resolve the problem other than dig the area and mix with topsoil, which would be extremely costly and impractical. It may help a little to aerate the soil and reseed the area, but it would not fix the problem. It was felt the better option would be to divert people off the muddy path by installing a footpath

Mr Chester had made enquiries of a Soil Investigation company in Chelmsford to provide a formal report. This would entail digging a 5metre hole and drilling into the sub-strata under the clay to find a solution and would likely involve installing strategically placed drainage channels. It was not felt it would fix the entire problem as the area would still have a certain amount of standing water.

Cllr Pretty raised Riverview, which is adjacent but does not have the same problem. It was highlighted that Riverview is sloped.

Cllr C Guglielmi thanked Mr Chester for his time and interest. He then gave a précis of actions taken at the meeting on 27th. Cllr Guglielmi suggested he informally contact Steven Rose. None of Council's other Play areas have this issue. Lawford Green (not yet adopted) has issues withstanding water, resulting in very muddy areas and the play equipment currently under lying water. Cllr Guglielmi suggested council does not take on Lawford Green until the issue of standing water is resolved.

- b) Council's course of action to eliminate standing water.

**It was agreed Cllr Guglielmi would informally contact Steven Rose
Action Cllr C Guglielmi**

- c) SUDS Maintenance – It was agreed the outcome of the conversation with Steven Rose be conveyed to council before entering into a maintenance contract and that it be placed on the next Public Realm meeting.

Action - Clerk

7. Projects

- a) Summers Park – following discussion regarding the route for the footpaths it was agreed it would be some time before the flooding would be resolved and the paths were a priority. The paths to be raised to alleviate the flooding of the paths. *(As a guide the below costings taken from Colne Contracts quote. A third quote is being obtained)*

Phase one Footpath with splay (£11,366.00)

Footpath behind the school past the play area (£20,805.00)

Phase two Footpath from behind the school to link up past the pond (£24,850.00)

Phase three Widen footpath behind Highfields School (£24,980.00)

Note: there would be an overall saving of £5,200.00 if excavated material is left on site.

Funding set aside towards the cost of the footpaths £20,000.00

Proposed: Cllr C Guglielmi Seconded: Cllr Barrett Agreed

8. Lawford Green

- a) Following issues with standing water at Summers Park Cllr Thurlow's had reported on water drainage at Lawford Green, visiting daily for several days. Water is sitting on the play area and there is concern that the equipment is wood. The area where parents would stand to collect children when the school gates are opened has standing water and will likely result in the same issues as at Highfields School. The area where the nursery is being built is 'like a pond' and paths were under water on Saturday when it was raining.

Cllr C Guglielmi suggested the report be treated as a live document monitoring the area constantly over the coming year and to keep on the agenda for updates. Before the area is taken over discussion to be had with Rose Builders to resolve the problem.

9. Riverview Purchase update

Cllr Adcock-Jones has signed documents. Cllr Pretty queried the hold up if the documents have been signed. Clerk was asked to enquire of solicitors.

Action Clerk

10. Defibrillator update:

- a) *Defibrillator has been received and council is waiting to be advised by Mr Bruce when he will be able to install it.*

11. Highways Matters:

a) Address parking issues in Lawford (*councillors' emails with the below suggestions were circulated*)

A number of areas in and around Colchester Road were highlighted as needing extended yellow lines (see below). It was highlighted that people park on yellow lines with seemingly no repercussions. Parking permits were suggested as an option, as was 'Fishbone' Pavement Parking. Cllr Pretty suggested that as so many issues relate to Colchester Road perhaps the whole of Colchester Road should be looked at and councillors meet members from the Parking Partnership to review the problems of Colchester Road and in particular those highlighted below. It was suggested Cllrs C Guglielmi, Thurlow and Pretty meet NEPP.

- i) Junction of Edgefield Drive and Colchester Road
- ii) Waldegrave Way as you come off Colchester Road (Cedar Crescent end)
- iii) Colchester Road left hand bend just after Waldegrave Way playing field entrance
- iv) Pavement Parking Colchester Road - from No 33 Colchester Road going up the road

Other areas of concern:

- v) Cotman Avenue - Nash Close to Constable Close – cars have to go on the opposite side of the road to drive around cars parked on the junction, which is a bend. This results in near misses with cars coming up the hill that cannot be seen.
- vi) Bottom of Hungerdown Lane joining the A137 (opposite the pink house/old public house). The greensward is now mud. Vehicles park on the greensward stopping cars exiting Hungerdown lane onto the A137, from seeing oncoming vehicles. Suggest bollards on the greensward (which is now mud because of the constant presence of parked vehicles)

In conclusion it was agreed a meeting be requested with NEPP representative(s) on site at Colchester Road to discuss the issues, and that proposals for Cotman Avenue and Hungerdown Lane also be submitted.

Proposed: Cllr Pretty **Seconded:** Cllr Thurlow **Agreed**
Action Clerk

For note: Cllr Thurlow raised the creation of a Drones Policy as a result of a recent FOI request. Clerk advised this is scheduled for the February Full Council meeting. Cllr Thurlow will circulate the proposed policy in the interim.

The next **Public Realm Meeting** is scheduled for **5 April 2021**

Signature: (Chairman)Date: