

SOULBURY MILLENNIUM GREEN MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Registered Charity No 1070738

Minutes of Special Meeting 30 August 2016

Those present: Alan Stevens Chairman
 Wendy Taylor Treasurer/Secretary
 Liz Miller
 Elizabeth Caplan
 Vic Wright
 Christine Sheppard
 Maurice Cross
 Margaret Rowe

Apologies: Georgette Sunderland
 Val Redbart
 Michele Nicholas

1	Structure	Action
	<p>Liz put together her thoughts for this section of the agenda. She raised questions for discussion.</p> <p>Community Open Space <i>Does everyone really feel that they know what the Green is for? Has its purpose changed over the last 16 years? Perhaps people see its purpose completely differently (which indeed may be where problems have arisen).</i></p> <p><i>Is it a conservation project?</i> <i>Is it a recreation space?</i> <i>Is it a peaceful place for contemplation and being with nature?</i> <i>Is it a dog walker paradise?</i> <i>Is it somewhere to grow veg and flowers?</i> <i>Does it have a rehabilitation purpose Community Payback (something to be very proud of) and/or medical rehabilitation (Hospice connections (Vic?). Horticultural Therapy.</i></p> <p>It was generally felt the purpose of the SMG has changed. It has moved from solely a conservation site to most of the suggestions above. Vic commented that it may change again should Soulbury lose the playground.</p> <p>Alan had established that the SMG is the only millennium green remaining in Buckinghamshire which is something we should shout about.</p> <p>Signage to the SMG was discussed and it was felt it all should be revamped to reflect the above and that we should have a 'strap' line on the signage and all our communications. It was decided that:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Soulbury Millennium Green Unique in Buckinghamshire - a place where community and nature thrive</p>	

It was also agreed unanimously that the Community Payback team will continue to be used. There is a lot of work on SMG to maintain it and to develop all the ideas we have to improve it. It is proving difficult to encourage volunteers from the village and until this changes we will continue to use these teams.

Safety of the public

This must be paramount; all those working for the Trust and its Management Committee must be aware of the implications of their actions. Organisations such as the Greensand Trust, and Community Pay-Back Scheme ensure participants are fully aware of safety issues, and we should do the same.

Can we agree a brief statement emphasising the relevant points and how to achieve them like:

Attention should be drawn if a potential health and safety issue is seen on the site

No alcohol or drugs should be brought onto the site

In the event of an accident, a formal report should be made out

Assessment should be made before attempting a challenging task

At task completion all pathways should be left clear and safe and all tools returned to locked shed.

The above was discussed at length. It was agreed that we should put up more signs saying that people enter at their own risk and that children/dogs should be monitored at all times. Comment was made that our insurance company may help with the best wording for such a notice.

Vic pointed out that ROSPA inspections are carried out on all play areas and they all pass with no problem so there cannot be any issues there.

It was also felt that there should be a notice that in the event of an accident people should call one of the contacts given. However, if it was that bad the ambulance would be the first port of call.

Encouraging volunteers

What are the motivations for the volunteers?

Making friends? Want company?

Doing something nurturing/worthwhile?

Being among nature they don't normally have access to?

Having access to space they don't normally have access to?

Wanting to help people?

Wanting to give back to their community? (Community Payback involvement)

Wanting to broaden their skills/knowledge (add to a CV?)

Desire for creative outlets?

Would a 'charter' or 'code of conduct' be helpful to support those working on the Green? Community Payback teams are briefed each time they attend and the code is strictly adhered to.

<http://www.greensandtrust.org/pdfs/Volunteer%20PolicyWeb.pdf> is a link to the comprehensive document used by the Greensand Trust.

Just because people are volunteers, they still need motivating and things like 'performance reviews' really work towards this because it shows that what they are working on is being recognised. Many people volunteer with the objective of adding to their CV (Phillipa for example) so for someone like her that level of attention would be really welcomed and spur her on to do more – especially if she could produce a 1 page report signed off by

	<p><i>the committee for example, in a job interview. On the flip side, if any one volunteer is behaving against the charter (that everyone has written as a team) then you can introduce a series of warnings when it comes to THEIR individual performance review. A performance review can take 5-15mins – it doesn't have to be a big deal – it's the recognition of work that's so important. Write the notes up quickly and email them back to the person being appraised – on a yearly basis even. Maybe at the next AGM produce some certificates/bottle of wine - in recognition of their effort.</i></p> <p>The above as discussed but the main question is how are we going to encourage volunteers?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • make people aware the SMG belongs to the village. 1000 people in the parish, 300 in the village. • tap those who would volunteer for CVs i.e. DofE/local schools/scouting movement. • 100 Club members. Produce document to show what it is we do with the money raised by the scheme/make them feel more involved for their contributions/raise awareness with them what work is required to see if any would help. <p>Aims and objectives</p> <p><i>The Trust Deed sets out in para 3.2 the original Statement of Aims, in which is mentioned being 'a substantial contribution to the life of the whole community'.</i></p> <p><i>Can we think how to communicate a success story and the part people have played in this....</i></p> <p><i>celebrate achievements</i></p> <p><i>feedback to 100 club members how money is spent</i></p> <p><i>applaud contributions</i></p> <p><i>evaluate uses of the Green and promote positive aspects...taking healthy exercise, quality family time, therapeutic gardening.</i></p> <p>Wendy suggested that a 3-fold leaflet be created about SMG so it can be taken to events and promoted. It should include the aims and objectives. It was agreed that this should be done, hopefully in time for the Bucks Charity and Business Conference on 28 September 2016 where it can be distributed.</p>	
2	Professional advice	
	<p>Trees: Richard and Jon had contacts with people who can advise what best to do with the trees we have. No-one knew who these were so Wendy offered to contact the guy who took down the trees in he garden so see if he had the same knowledge and would help and at what cost.</p> <p>Creation of water feature/redo what we have: Alan had been looking at the pictures Wendy had put onto the website showing the creation of the SMG from 1998 onwards and it became apparent that we have 'lost control' of the willows around the ponds. Wendy will include this with her contact.</p>	<p>Wendy</p> <p>Wendy</p>
3	Chickens	

	<p>Alan raised the issue of the chickens on SMG and whether it is appropriate to have them. The question was raised because an accident occurred to the person who was left to look after them in Christine's absence. The person blamed himself and bares no malice but it raised the concern that if the area caused this for someone who knows the area what could happen if children are running around. Several discussions have taken place at the committee meetings to produce a 'Hilton' for them but, at the moment, it does not look nice at all. The chickens are very well but visually it is not good and not a good advertisement of the SMG.</p> <p>A vote was taken and most agreed that it would be good for the chickens to be taken off the site. Christine said she would do this but it would take time which everyone was fine with.</p>	Christine
4	Any other business	
	<p>Soulfest - Michele received notice from the Pommy Granites that they are getting booked up so she committed to running the event on 8 July. They are the headline act and also support the event by allowing the use of their PA equipment and have printed leaflets for the event. Whilst this goes against the move to establish what other villages are doing to reduce clashes it was agreed that in the summer there won't be many weekends free of events. We shall ensure Soulfest 2017 is advertised before everyone else arranges their events.</p> <p>Soil - the infill needs to continue. There is a lot to move so the Community Payback teams will have more than enough to do.</p>	

Meeting closed at 21:10 hrs

Distribution: Those present + John Spires, Michele Nicholas, Val Redbart.