

**ST CUTHBERT (OUT) PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE ASSET MANAGEMENT
COMMITTEE HELD AT COXLEY MEMORIAL HALL
ON WEDNESDAY 16TH OCTOBER 2024 AT 7.00PM**

PRESENT: Cllr J Zorab, Cllr M Cooke; Cllr J Reeves, Cllr M Mitchell; Cllr S McCoy, Cllr M Lunnon

IN ATTENDANCE: Simon Davies (RFO)

01. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND TO CONSIDER THE REASONS GIVEN

Cllr F Brown

RESOLVED: To accept reasons offered for absence.

02. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

02.01. Cllr Lunnon for Item 13 – prejudicial interest

02.02. None

02.03. None

03. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

No items for exclusion by the press or public.

04. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

No members of the public present.

05. MINUTES OF ASSET MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE HELD ON WEDNESDAY 28TH AUGUST 2024.

RESOLVED: To sign and confirm the Minutes of the Asset Management Committee held on Wednesday 28th August 2024 as approved.

06. GRIT BIN REPLACEMENT

The Committee discussed quotes for similar size bins. The Committee discussed the need for a bin in East Horrington and another along Woodford Road.

RESOLVED: To approve two Grit Bins from Gritbins.net, to be distributed to their locations by Somerset Highways.

07. ANNUAL PLAYGROUND INSPECTION

The Committee noted and discussed the Annual Playground Inspection – works from which are being quoted for. Councillors to view the quote once received for actioning points raised.

08. WOOKEY HOLE ALLOTMENTS – JAPANESE KNOTWEED

The Committee discussed the quote for fencing to be placed around the existing Japanese Knotweed. The RFO has been unable to gain quotes to eradicate it.

RESOLVED: Works quoted for do not take place, however the fencing should be replaced by a chicken wire fencing around the affected area.

09. TREE SURVEY 2024

The Committee discussed and noted the Tree Survey for this year. The Clerk to obtain a quote for works to be presented to the next Asset Management Committee meeting.

10. PREFERRED CONTRACTOR REVIEW

The Committee discussed options for the review and the reasoning behind it. The Council benefits include lower costs and faster action of urgent repairs within such a scheme. The Review will ensure a 'Preferred Contractor' is in place at the next scheduled elections and a process to Tender for another contract to start May 2027.

RESOLVED: The Asset Management Committee approve a process to review the 'Preferred Contractor' contract for 2024 and recommend to Full Council for their approval.

RESOLVED: That the Council issue a Tender for a 'Preferred Contractor' in Autumn 2026, for a contract to commence in May 2027.

11. PROPOSED RIVER SHEPPEY RIVERBANK PLANTING

The Committee noted the proposals on the riverbank planting at Coxley Playing Fields. Further proposals and costs to be discussed at the next meeting.

RESOLVED: Agenda items 12 & 13 to be swapped around.

12. ANNUAL MAINTENANCE CONTRACT

The Committee held a long debate on the potential for future maintenance provision and the impact on contracts regarding Somerset Council proposals to devolve some services to parish councils.

Whilst discussing the 'Annual Maintenance Contract' the Committee also discussed the need for some repairs to the iron finger posts – especially regarding the post along Easton Lane (near Deer Leep).

RESOLVED: To finalise the Contract for consideration of Asset Management Committee in November 2024.

RESOLVED: To accept recommendations to include additions at the Coxley Playing Field and for flower/nature corridors. Land at Bowring Close to be included for this Tender.

RESOLVED: Waste Management and associated matters to be considered as a separate contract to be Tendered. Specification to be written once details are known from Somerset Council on their devolution proposals.

RESOLVED: To discuss provision for finger post refurbishment, and a potential budget impact, at the next meeting in November 2024.

Cllr Lunnon left the meeting at 8:03pm

13. TARMAC REPAIRS AND TREE PLANTING

The RFO reported that Council was unable to gain 3 quotes for works at the entrance to the Wookey Hole Allotment site. However, the Council has 2 quoted for consideration. The Committee discussed both quotes.

RESOLVED: The Committee to award the works to M Lunnon, for repairs to take place within 1 month.

The Committee then discussed the proposals over a mini tree to be planted in an Allotment plot - as requested by a Tennant.

RESOLVED: To agree the tree can be planted, but only in a suitable pot.

11. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

NOTED: Next Asset Management Committee meeting to be held Wednesday 27th November 2024 at 7pm, Coxley Memorial Hall.