

9. REPORTS OF COMMITTEES, WORKING PARTIES & COMMUNITY GROUP REPRESENTATIVES

- A. Finance & Emergency:** All councillors had received a copy of the draft minutes (FEM 01/2015) from the meeting held on 24th February. Cllr Norman raised the issue that Fergusons do not intend to use the flail mower for cutting Fairchild's Meadows and Wayman's Pits but was advised that the first cut carried out with their own machine will be inspected to ensure it is of the expected standard.
- B. Allotments:** (See Minutes FC 02/2015 Item 9C) The issue with the new tanks has been resolved.
- C. Burial Areas:** Cllr Lyon had met with Fergusons regarding cutting the beech hedge at the Cemetery and topping up graves to be carried out in the autumn. He will also speak to them about removing the ivy on the shed.
- D. Christmas Lights:** Nothing to report.
- E. Environmental Overview:** The Group had met on 17th February and reviewed the financial position and performance of the grounds maintenance contract and contractor. There had been an issue with emptying the bin outside the Spar Shop but this was largely due to the amount of use it receives and consideration would be given to purchasing an additional bin under Item 19 to help alleviate the problem. It had been agreed that a recommendation should be put to the Full Council to apply for change of use planning permission for Wayman's Pits and this would be discussed under Item 10. There are concerns regarding lorries running over the edge of The Green and the County Council has been contacted for advice on the best way to deal with the problem. The village sign is in need of refurbishment and ideas on how to proceed are being considered.
- F. Street Lighting:** The Clerk had been advised that Amey do not consider they are liable for the cost of the replacement lantern in Froize End, which has been purchased to replace the one that was damaged when the new pole was erected. She will follow this up with copies of emails showing that they had admitted liability for it. Balfour Beatty had been very good in responding to complaints about the new County lights being installed and further information would be given under Item 13.
- G. Aldreth Community Association:** There are some issues between the Centre and Tinderbox, which are being dealt with. The new cupboard doors have been completed and look very good.
- H. Arkenstall Centre:** Nothing to report.
- I. Haddenham Library:** Although the Library is running smoothly with its loyal volunteers an additional Saturday volunteer is needed to cover for planned leave, etc.,. The donation of good usable books continues and is much appreciated. A scheme to "Sponsor a Book" will be rolled out after Easter when the Catalogue Team will list books required and hopefully borrowers will sponsor the cost, this worked very well in 2013. A book sale will be held on 18th April at the Arkenstall Centre table sale. Borrowing numbers remain static, which is a good sign.
- J. Haddenham Youth Club:** This would be discussed under Item 20.
- K. Guppy's Pond:** Sadly Mike Smith is moving away and a new volunteer will be needed to join the committee and co-opted at the Annual Parish Meeting. Ann Biggs will stay on the committee but will stand down as Chairman. The Pond Committee usually meets before the Conservation Society on the same night and they were considering a merger of the two but this would not be feasible due to the original terms of the agreement on which the Pond Committee was set up as it relates specifically to Parish owned land and not general conservation.
- Also due to Mike Smith moving the Parish Council owned equipment he currently holds will need to be stored in the Bier House and the Council approved this.
- L. Recreation:** Nothing to report.
- M. Fairchild's Meadows:** A copy of the draft minutes of the meeting held on 9th February had been circulated to all councillors. The group will need to elect a new chairman at the next meeting in April. Two new members were co-opted to join the group, Chris Ray and Chris Barnett and it is hoped that Stephen Fairchild and Barclay Arnott will also join at the next meeting. There are plans by the Young Farmers to plant a tree in memory of the late David Fairchild and this will happen in the autumn.