

Lockington Parish Council
Village Green Open Meeting

Confirmed Minutes of the VG Open Meeting Held on
Tuesday 15th October 2024

1. To receive Apologies:

Apologies: Parish Councillors; Angela Harley, Stewart Craig & Jeremy Mason.

Lockington Parish Councillors present were John Rowson (Chair), Stephany Taylor, Ian Jowett, Jamie Wheldon, and Andrew How.

Visitors: There were twenty-two Parishioners present at the meeting.
The Clerk, Mr Gareth Rees, was also present at the meeting.

2. Welcome

The Chairman, Parish Councillor John Rowson thanked everyone for coming and welcomed them to the second open meeting discussing the village green.

3. Village Green Questionnaire (2020).

The Chairman explained that the village green questionnaire was sent out in 2020, and the Parish Council wanted to ensure that this is still valid today. The outcome of this discussion was yes, in general the results of the questionnaire were relevant.

There were two exceptions discussed;

- a) The number of the children in the village had increased since 2020, therefore some consideration should be given to providing a play area/small park for children. It was agreed that this was the case, and this provision should be considered in phase 2 of the green development (assuming funds available).
- b) The number of dogs in the village had also increased. In the questionnaire results a relatively small number of people said, "no dogs/no roaming free". However, it was felt that with the increase in number of dogs in the village and the green being a meeting place for villagers, this rule would preclude many people from using the green.

Therefore, a compromise was discussed and agreed, dogs allowed on leads and owners must clean up any dog waste.

Chairman's Initials.....

Short Term Plan

The Chairman explained that the entrance into the green had now been completed, and the green has had its first cut and is now looking a lot better.

The next action is to cut the hedge along Thorpe in line with the requirements from ERYC Planning & Highways (1.05 metres above the level of the adjoining carriageway). When this is complete the hedge Beck side of the green will be cut back to approximately 1.25 to 1.5m (variable, apart from specimen trees).

The draft sketch was discussed in detail and was seen as a good indicative plan for phase 1 of the green. Obviously, funds must be available before this work can be carried out.

Phase 2 of the green was not discussed in detail at this point.

4. Workflow Process

The Clerk explained the process in detail; a draft risk assessment had been developed to ensure anyone entering the green (public/contractor/volunteer) was exposed to the absolute minimum level of risk. The Parish Councillors are now in the process of reviewing the risk assessment, and the plan is to edit as necessary and subsequently approve at the October meeting.

When the risk assessment is approved, all agreed controls identified will be put in place. As and when funds allow, the green will be developed as per sketch (phase 1).

5. Tapping into resident expertise and that of outside bodies.

The Chairman explained that this is something the PC will be looking for as time moves on with this project.

6. Tree types, wildflowers and bulbs etc.

This was briefly discussed, but it was felt that this is something that the Steering Group should discuss and agree upon at a future date.

When planting trees consider how big they will grow in 20 years! It was felt that a minimum number of trees should be planted.

Wildflower/wild grass area was seen as a good idea

7. Volunteers

The PC are eager for help from volunteers, especially as we move into phase 1 of the project. There was little or no interest in the meeting, but the PC still feel that there will be welcomed help in the future.

8. Involvement of the School & Gardening Group

This was briefly discussed, but no decisions were made at this point.

9. Dog Access.

As discussed in 3b above.

10. Maintenance – ongoing and annual maintenance.

The Chairman explained that there would be a maintenance contract established to ensure the green is well maintained (small green landscape), but there would also be room for volunteers to assist (as 7 above).

11. Management of Green – Steering Group/PC

This was discussed briefly discussed, but no conclusions made. The PC were thinking of a steering group of 2/3 members of the PC and 2/3 members of the public. To be finalised in due course.

12. Conclusion and next steps.

As itemised in the short-term plan in 3 above. When robust fencing established, consider sheep to control vegetation over the next few months.

The Chairman subsequently signed the minutes on behalf of the Parish Council

Chairmans Name: John Rowson

Chairmans Signature:

Date:

The meeting closed at 2010 hrs.

Issued by;
Gareth Rees
Clerk to Lockington Parish Council
Mobile: 0776823352
E mail: lpcclerk@outlook.com

Chairman's Initials.....