

## **DRAFT Minutes of the Urchfont Parish Council (UPC) Full Council Meeting held remotely on Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> April 2021**

**Present:** Councillors: Day (GD – Chairman), Botham (MB – Vice Chairman), Hill (TH), Kemp (MK), Cowen (LC), Creasey (GC), Hollyman (MH), Cottle (SC) and Stevens (DS)

**Clerk to the Council:** Lunn (BL)

**Councillor for Urchfont & The Cannings:** Whitehead (PW)

**Members of the Public (for all or part of the remote meeting):** Mr. S Veitch

### **A. INTRODUCTION**

**1. Welcome by the Chairman** – GD called for a one minute silence at the start of the meeting in remembrance of HRH Duke of Edinburgh. A link to the WC and Royal on-line book of condolences has been added to the UPC website. GD welcomed all to what is probably the last meeting of current members of the Council.

**2. Apologies** – Cllr Rotherham (PR)

**B. PLANNING** – See separate minutes.

### **C. FULL COUNCIL MEETING**

**1. Declarations of Interest** – None were declared at the meeting.

**2. Remote Public Participation / Email input from members of the public and External Reports** – GD confirmed that no members of the public wished to speak. BL confirmed that no email representations had been received.

**3. Minutes of the Meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup> March 2021**

<b>Proposal</b>	<b>Proposer</b>	<b>Seconder</b>	<b>Resolution</b>
<b>To approve and sign the minutes unchanged as a true and accurate record of the meeting.</b>	<b>TH</b>	<b>MK</b>	<b>AGREED with one abstention due to absence</b>

**4. Action List Status Review and Update Reports from the Minutes of the meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup> March 2021** – BL reviewed the action list as follows to establish the way forward for the new council:

**FC/48/20 – Investigate potential for Hales Farm application to facilitate move of 20mph signs** – awaiting outcome of application – new council to pursue.

**FC/49/20 – Specify verge works for project budget approval** – new council (MB/MH) to facilitate

**FC/1/21 – Pursue resolution of milestone and A342 crossing with WC Highways** – it is believed that WC are pursuing an insurance claim with offending organisation, crossing to be pursued in association with FC/10/20 below – new council to pursue

**FC/10/21 – Restart discussion on Wedhampton to Planks footpath with Bill Donald and Nick Plank** – GD reported that this item has some history. The footpath across the field is unmarked, In discussion with WC Rights of Way it is believed that signs were agreed in the past but not pursued. GD recommends that the new council consider installation of finger posts at either side of the field after first considering whether this is actually the best route for the path as opposed to an alternative which links to a path on the Wedhampton side of the A342.

- FC/11/21 – Purchase new litter bin for Wedhampton** – see Clerks report in Appendix (on website only)  
**FC/14/21 – Tag ash trees and set up monitoring process** – see Agenda item 6b2 below  
**FC/15/21 – Submit BKV application when received** – see Clerk’s report at Appendix (on website only)

**5. Finance**

**a. Financial Summary and Bank Reconciliation as at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021** – Statements had been circulated to all councillors prior to the meeting and a summary included in the Clerk’s written report (Appendix on website only) showing the accounts to be in good order at the end of the financial year. Accounts documentation will now be prepared for internal and external audit. No comments were made by councillors.

**b. Clerks Appraisal 2020/21 and Pay Recommendations 21/22** – GD commented that the review has been undertaken by MB and himself slightly earlier than last year due to Council changes in this election year. The appraisal addresses 23 line items in five sections (Core Role, Law & Procedures, Finance, Management and Community). GD stated that the Clerk’s role covers a vast range of activities and responsibilities, he congratulated BL for maintaining a very high level of performance throughout a very strange year. He had no hesitation in making the following recommendation, MB commented that this recommendation is well deserved.

Proposal	Proposer	Secunder	Resolution
To propose that BL move from NALC scale point 18 to scale point 19 with effect 1 <sup>st</sup> April 2021, this equates to a 2% increase in his hourly rate.	GD	MB	AGREED unanimously

**c. Request from Wiltshire Search and Rescue for donation** – GD asked whether a similar request had been received from this organisation in the past, BL responded that he was not aware of any such request. In commenting that the request appeared well intentioned, GD said to agree may set a precedent for further demands from this or other organisations. LC commented that he had published a number of features on this organisation in the past, they are manned by volunteers and undertake some very professional and outstanding work, especially with vulnerable people. TH agreed with LC and pointed out that they could very easily be called upon by other emergency services to help in our community. MK supported the application, especially as COVID has made things more difficult for such organisations due to lack of fund raising opportunity.

Proposal	Proposer	Secunder	Resolution
To approve a donation of £100 to Wiltshire Search and Rescue	MH	MK	Agreed unanimously

**6. Lead Councillor, Working Groups, Clerk & other Written Reports (See Appendix 1 - attached on website only)**

**a. Clerks Report** – the report did not require an update, some items would nevertheless be covered under later agenda items.

**b. Councillor Reports**

**i. UPC Highways Report April 2021** – MH emphasised that the first UPC survey in 2019 highlighted the poor state of verges in various parts of the Parish, to date nothing has been undertaken by WC Highways to improve the situation. As a result MB applied for and received a section 96 order to facilitate DIY activity. Budget will be required for this work in due course. Verge repairs will be further pursued at the next meeting with the WC Highways Engineer scheduled for 22<sup>nd</sup> April.

Another issue is the nib of land at the entrance to Manor Farmyard adjacent to Friars Lane. This is continually being eroded by vehicles and needs either a shrub or large rock to try to prevent this. BL pointed out that there

are rules for placing items on what is WC Highways land and, without appropriate approvals, if anyone damages themselves or their vehicle then UPC could be held liable. PW confirmed that proposals need to be agreed by the WC Highways Engineer and recommended that a shrub might be better than a rock and assuming that whatever is used does not diminish traffic visibility. MH made the following proposal:

Proposal	Proposer	Seconder	Resolution
<b>Assuming WC approval is gained, that a £100 budget is approved for the purchase of an acceptable item to be planted on the nib at the entrance to Manor Farmyard.</b>	<b>MH</b>	<b>MB</b>	<b>Agreed unanimously</b>

PW asked about the water manhole at the corner of Top Green, has it been repaired? MH believed that works have been completed by Wessex Water to provide additional access points, but the apparently redundant lid is still subject to being dislodged by traffic. The matter will be discussed further with the WC Highways Engineer. PW suggested that discussion should include wider reinstatement works that need to be undertaken at Top Green.

**ii. UPC tree marking for monitoring ash dieback** – further to his written report, SC confirmed that the marked ash trees need to be monitored, but this needs to be undertaken by someone with appropriate knowledge at say 3 monthly intervals. TH commented that ash dieback generally progresses slowly, maybe six monthly would be more appropriate. GC agreed that six monthly might be more appropriate at a time when the trees are bare and in leaf. GD suggested that the action to decide how to monitor should be passed to the new Council for resolution.

**ACTION: FC/16/21 – New Council**

**iii. Friends of Oakfrith Wood** – GC confirmed he had nothing further to add.

**iv. Urchfont CE Primary School – Governors** – GC confirmed he had nothing further to add.

**v. Farmers Field** – In addition to her written report, MK added that the Cubs will be allowed to start face to face meetings in May and stated that they have decided to use Farmers Field as a meeting place and have a programme of activities planned which includes tasks such as spring blossom identification, making fir cone bird feeders, navigation and pioneering skills to name but a few. They have carried out a comprehensive risk assessment to keep everyone safe and to comply with Covid-19 rules & guidelines and have a one-way system planned for dropping off and picking up children.

MK had also been asked to pass on a message about Farmers Field from a resident which is, "Thank you UPC for developing such a lovely space and making it available to the community.

**vi. Urchfont Pond Update** – MB added that he will invite the consultant to undertake her annual inspection shortly, it is hoped that water samples will have improved significantly. The contractor who installed the floating islands will also visit shortly to inspect the plants and make any recommendations for improving growth.

**7. B3098 Speed Zones** – (see Clerk's report Item v. in Appendix on website only) PW confirmed that WC Highways now had actions to install a 40mph buffer zone at the eastern end of Urchfont by the autumn 2021. He could not say how long the buffer zone would be, but believed that it had to be a minimum of 300 metres from the existing 30mph signs.

**8. UPEG** - No written report was submitted this month as the latest UPEG meeting was not held until 12<sup>th</sup> April. However, MB made the council aware of the following:

i. It is intended to hold a litter picking event on 22<sup>nd</sup> April from 12noon to 1pm starting in Stonepit lay-by, all are invited to participate.

ii. It is intended to hold an event in the Village Hall on 24<sup>th</sup> July 2021 with, for example, displays on composting and other green elements for example. In this respect, MB requested approval for funding out of the £1000 budget earmarked for UPEG use as follows:

Proposal	Proposer	Seconder	Resolution
To approve £300 (out of the £1000 21/22 budget earmarked for UPEG) for leaflets and other items for this UPEG event on 24 <sup>th</sup> July.	MH	LC	Agreed unanimously

iii. GD and MB were parachuted into UPEG last year, looking forward it probably makes better sense for a non UPC member of UPEG to be elected Chairman and for a UPC councillor to attend meetings and report back say every quarter. LC agreed that two councillors being part of UPEG is probably too much of a task, he supports the idea of only one. MH supported these views and wondered whether UPEG could be set up in its own right similar to Rights of Way and Oakfrith Wood. BL pointed out that UPEG is a working group of UPC and as such needs to justify its actions and requirements to the Council. PW agreed that whilst it is a working group of UPC then UPC has a responsibility to monitor and approve its activities and be liable for its actions, having said this UPEG could be set up as an independent group if UPC is fully content with this way forward. Terms of Reference need to be updated if UPEG remains a UPC Working Group.

**ACTION: FC/17/21 – New Council**

GD had hoped to be able to report on the completed carbon footprint of UPC, but this has not yet been fully completed. However, it would seem that the results are likely to be in line with those reported in the written report to the March meeting (c30 tonnes of CO2 per annum).

**9. Future UPC and Parish Meetings** – GD stated that emergency legislation to permit virtual meetings has not been extended and will expire on 7<sup>th</sup> May 2021. From then UPC need to plan to hold physical face to face meetings, but this is complicated because of the easing of COVID lockdown measures which currently don't allow the opening of venues for local government events until 17<sup>th</sup> May. Legislation requires UPC to hold the annual meeting of the council within 14 days from when the new council assumes responsibility (10<sup>th</sup> May). BL added that the situation is further complicated by a court case on or about 21<sup>st</sup> April which is seeking to confirm that the definition of meetings in the Local Government Act 1972 includes any format including virtual. In addition BL confirmed that he is in contact with the Village Hall to confirm whether or not it is COVID safe and what the maximum number of attendees can be taking account of social distancing requirements. BL confirmed that this uncertain situation is affecting all councils to one extent or another in trying to satisfy standing legislation and the COVID lockdown scenario which is still evolving.

Taking account of the above uncertainties, the Village Hall (Main Hall) has been provisionally booked for Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> May 2021, but it is stressed that this is subject to change at possibly short notice. The opportunity is also being taken to hold a short Parish Meeting prior to the UPC meeting, the meeting in 2020 was cancelled and the meeting this year has to be held before 1<sup>st</sup> June, as follows:

- 1800 – doors open for public attendance and registration**
- 1815 – Parish Meeting starts**
- 1900 - Parish Meeting ends**
- 1900 – 1915 – public leave (if they want to)**
- 1915 – Council meeting starts with a target close time of 20.30 if not sooner**

To minimise the possible COVID infection risk and encourage people to attend, both meetings will be strictly time limited with only statutory and other critical business on the UPC Annual Meeting agenda. The Parish Meeting will receive a report from UPC on activities over the last two years and offer a Q&A session only.

GD asked councillors whether they would feel uncomfortable to attend such a meeting in the Village Hall in view of the COVID situation, all indicated that they would attend if appropriate measures are in place. GD requested that ALL current UPC councillors attend the proposed Parish Meeting.

**ACTION: FC/18/21 – ALL**

**10. Update on Current Parish Issues not covered by above agenda items**

**i. The Lamb Inn** – GD reported on a conversation with the Brewery on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> April. Wadworth are currently interviewing – they held interviews this morning, and there is interest in The Lamb. It is their intention to reopen the pub, but this is unlikely to occur before the end of May. 24 of their managed premises and 65 of their tenanted properties have reopened today.

**ii. Urchfont Community Shop** - GD reported that he had received the following information from Richard Mistlin, Chairman of the Urchfont Community Shop Association:

“Management changes for the operation of Urchfont Community Shop are to be implemented with effect from Monday 19<sup>th</sup> April. Patty Frankel’s last day in the shop as Manager will be Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> April. Advertising for a direct replacement has not yet resulted in a suitable candidate being appointed, so a joint management team will cover all of the key managerial functions. They will be supported by a dedicated group of 6 volunteers. Dave Snowden will continue as Systems Manager and Rodney Gillington will continue as Treasurer. All other volunteers in the shop are encouraged to continue providing their time for this valuable community asset.

Changes to the actual operating practices within the shop will emerge over time, but one of the early changes proposed will be the phased elimination of the pre-payment system for newspapers.

The Shop AGM is scheduled to be held on 26<sup>th</sup> June, at which event the new arrangements will be reviewed.”

**11. External Meetings** – DS reported that he had attended the Urchfont Cricket Club AGM, the Club had thanked UPC for its contribution to the new cricket nets which are now benefitting Wiltshire Ladies Cricket, local groups and individuals.

**12. Councillors’ Other Reports** – None reported

**13. Items for Future Agenda**

**a. Pathway to Oakfrith Wood** (To be addressed when physical meetings in Village Hall are restarted with public attendance) – BL confirmed that he had spoken to PW who had confirmed that this item could be delayed for several months until the Hales Farm development approval is finalised and pathways to the School can be included

**14. Parish Council Elections May 2021** – GD congratulated the four councillors who have been nominated to stand in the May 2021 election (MB, MH, DS, PR), they will be joined by Sarah Bamber and Malcolm Turner. GD hoped that all goes well in the future for their 4 year term of office. In view of the fact that not all 11 seats will be filled, it is expected that an uncontested result will be declared on or about 16<sup>th</sup> April and approval given for the remaining five seats to be filled by co-option in due course. Assuming the above, it is intended to advertise shortly on the website and on notice boards for expressions of interest in the vacant posts with the intention of considering any applications at the June 2021 UPC meeting.

(Post Meeting Note: The Uncontested Election result was published on the WC website on 15<sup>th</sup> April)

GD thanked all councillors for their support and efforts during their terms of office and wished them well for the future. In return LC thanked GD for his excellent chairmanship.

BL reminded councillors that they remain in post until 10<sup>th</sup> May 2021.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.32pm.

**Date of Next Scheduled Meeting: Provisionally TUESDAY 18<sup>th</sup> MAY 2021 in Village Hall (Main Hall)  
– Note that this is changed from previously published and is dependent on Lockdown Easing Road  
Map dates remaining unchanged.**

## APPENDIX 1 TO UPC MINUTES OF THE APRIL 2021 FULL COUNCIL MEETING

### a. CLERK'S REPORT

#### i. Update on Clerk's actions from March 2021 Meeting

**FC/15/21 – submit Best Kept Village application when received** – application forms have been received, will be completed along with supporting documentation and submitted by the end of May 2021 deadline.

**ii. Finance** – The Financial Summary and Bank Reconciliation as at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021 (End of Financial Year) have been distributed to all councillors. This information demonstrates that the accounts are in good order.

Account	£
General Reserve (approved target was £13,500)	15935
CIL Funding (Ringfenced for infrastructure type projects)	22,835
Carry Forward (mainly unspent element of budgets for ongoing projects)	6747
SUB TOTAL – UPC funds available at 31 <sup>st</sup> March 2021	45,517
PLUS Allotment Association Funds managed by UPC	1086
<b>TOTAL FUNDS IN BANK at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021 (Reconciled with statements)</b>	<b>46,603</b>

The above does not include £10,021 held in a separate ring fenced account for allotment re-provision in the event that more cemetery space is required.

**iii. Wedhampton – Perceived Traffic Speed Issues** – Arrangements have been made with WC to install metro-counters in The High Street to give definitive information on the speed and density of traffic. However, due to COVID restrictions this may be delayed for a period of time. Information gathered will inform further debate on the type of traffic measures which could be implemented if deemed necessary.

**iv. Wedhampton – Installation of approved litter bin** – due to apparent differences of Wedhampton opinion ranging from no bins needed to preferences for where to put or not put the approved bin, I am awaiting a definitive response from the individual who originally identified the issue before proceeding further.

**v. B3098 Speed Zones** – I have received the following email update from Philip Whitehead in relation to the proposed implementation of a 40mph zone to the east of Urchfont from the current 30mph section, this has been copied to all councillors:

“This is the programme suggested by the WC team for implementation:

*Prepping the order and drawings straightway so that it will be ready for processing by the end of April  
Current turnaround time with TRO's is around 8 to 12 weeks.  
Advertising the TRO in July / Aug (minimum 22 days)  
Go operational by the Autumn”*

This information will be updated / clarified under Item 7 on the agenda.

**vi. May Council Meeting** – For the following reasons I have had to change the date of the May UPC Annual meeting and may need to change dates for subsequent UPC meetings:

- The Government has not extended the legislation permitting the holding of virtual meetings past 7<sup>th</sup> May 2021, this necessitates all meetings post this date to be face to face in public

- The Annual Meeting of the council has to be held within 14 days of the new councillors assuming office on May 10<sup>th</sup> (UPC Standing Orders clause 2a)
- WALC/NALC have advised that face to face meetings should be held post 17<sup>th</sup> May to comply with the COVID lockdown easing roadmap, this is because Village Halls are not permitted to open for such events until after this date
- The fact that we will need to book the main hall in the Village Hall rather than the conference room to facilitate social distancing (but public numbers attending may still need to be restricted to comply with COVID guidelines)

Taking all the above into consideration I have booked **TUESDAY 18<sup>th</sup> MAY 2021** taking account of the fact that we will need to book the hall earlier than usual to enable set up of the hall in a socially distanced manner and the fact that this requirement potentially conflicts with other Village Hall commitments. This booking is of course dependent on the 17<sup>th</sup> May date on the Government's Road Map not being changed.

The above and future dates for meetings can be discussed further at Item 8 on the agenda.

**Bob Lunn, Clerk to the Council**

**b. COUNCILLOR REPORTS**

**i. UPC HIGHWAYS REPORT APRIL 2021**

We are pleased to advise that our persistence has at last paid off, and Wiltshire Council has now filled in most of the potholes and depressions around Franklin's Farm, and many others towards the village along Uphill. Most of the worst potholes on the road up to Redhorn Hill have now also been repaired, although further along there is still some further work to be done which we hope our Parish Steward will complete in the near future.

A Section 96 order has been applied for and granted, giving permission to plant an evergreen shrub or small tree on the nib of land at the entrance to Manor Farmyard. This has been continuously been driven over by careless large vehicle drivers causing significant and unsightly erosion. Planting a shrub would make the end more visible and should prevent further damage. We will propose and second a motion for UPC to grant an amount not exceeding £100, for the purchase of said shrub or tree at the April UPC meeting.

The salt bins were reported empty, and the WC winter team have now replenished them all, with the exception of the damaged bin at the bottom of Friar's Lane. This is to be replaced with a narrower bin more fitting to its location when WC have them back in stock.

**Cllrs. Martyn Hollyman and Mark Botham.**

**ii. UPC TREE MARKING FOR MONITORING FOR ASH DIEBACK**

23 Ash trees have been marked with a green paint, each tree as a dot approximately 10 cm in diameter either below the ID tag or in a place that can be seen.





There are 8 trees marked in the Recreation Ground ID tag numbers, 0568,0572,0573,0574,0575,0577,0578,0582. Further 4 on the Path to Oakfrith Woods, numbers 0595,0596,0597,0598. In the Allotment and Cemetery there are 2. Their tag numbers are 1618,1626. The Paddock green has 7 marked their tag numbers are, 1636,1638,1640,1643,1645,1646,1648. Also, both tree next to the duck house at The Pond have been marked their numbers 1645 and 1655.

With the leaf growth starting on many of these trees it will become more apparent which trees will need attention or closely monitoring. Monitoring can be carried out by anybody that as a keen eye.

**Cllr Steven Cottle**

### **iii. FRIENDS OF OAKFRITH WOOD**

The January/March Covid 19 lockdown has severely impacted the work program within Oakfrith, during this period the volunteers would normally extract the trees that had been cut and left in-situ on the ground in the autumn and early winter work sessions. Activities recommenced on the 30<sup>th</sup> March and will continue into mid-April to carefully remove this timber to stack adjacent to the footpaths for storage and seasoning. The use of chainsaws will be kept to a minimum and routes into the compartment being worked is carefully planned to minimise disturbance to the flora, fauna and wildlife.

The sale and delivery of firewood has virtually ceased due to lockdown.

The number of visitors taking exercise in Oakfrith has increased significantly during lockdown with the majority enjoying the tranquillity and beauty of the nature reserve, sadly though so has the incidents of vandalism with saplings being cut, litter being left and boundary fences damaged.

At the AGM held remotely on the 17<sup>th</sup> November 2020, Martin Follett was elected Chair of the Trustees of the Friends of Oakfrith Wood.

**Cllr Graham Creasey**

#### **iv. URCHFONTE CE PRIMARY SCHOOL – GOVERNORS**

The report covers the period April 2020 to March 2021.

During the last 12 months the school has faced unprecedented challenges dealing with the upheaval and disruption to education caused by the effects of Covid, the lockdowns and the planning and preparation of teaching material to enable home schooling to take place. The staff have worked very hard to continue to provide teaching to all children both in school and at home. At times during the second lockdown there were 40% of children in school which created added pressure on the teachers. The Governors were aware of a range of issues and frustrations felt by parents and teachers and have supported the school making full use of on-line meetings and consider that the Head and her team have done a remarkably good job in such uncharted circumstances.

All the children returned to school on the 8<sup>th</sup> March, however DFE regulations and guidelines were followed where the four classes remained as individual 'bubbles' with limited interaction between each group.

On the 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021 there were 104 children on roll.

Fundraising through USSPA has continued but at a lower level.

The proposed building extension project is continuing, building regulation approval has been obtained, subject to completion of a fire risk assessment and tenders are currently in the process of being invited with a view to a start on-site anticipated during the summer of 2021.

The Chair of the Governing Body is Ian Walker.

#### **Cllr Graham Creasey**

##### **v. FARMER'S FIELD**

Farmer's Field is looking beautiful and attracting more visitors every week. Felling has now ceased for the nesting season. The remaining trees will be closely monitored for evidence of disease during the spring and summer months.

Projects on the horizon will focus on the management of the scrape and improving the current under-story of plants to add additional interest and colour, as well as an extra habitat for bugs and common woodland residents and as a nectar source for bees and insects. The final planting plan will depend on the future of the ash trees that currently dominate the wood.

We have recently welcomed Malcolm Turner to our team of volunteers. Malcolm brings with him a wealth of knowledge and experience relating to wildlife and conservation having spent his entire working life in the field of agriculture as an agriculture botanist and a crop protection specialist in the UK and worldwide. Malcolm has already been busy cataloguing the resident plants to see if there is anything unusual or rare. I will be meeting with Malcolm next week to chat through concerns about the scrape and the encroachment of some of the aquatic plants.

I would like to express sincere thanks to all Friends of Farmers Field who have worked incredibly hard often under difficult circumstances. Special thanks to Mike for creating such a beautiful dead hedge to replace the unsightly barbed wire alongside the track. To Phil and Max who have created a rustic fence that will protect some newly planted saplings that will eventually help to conceal the container and meet with the dead hedge. To Pete and Jeff for what seems like never-ending felling operations. Also, thank you to John Knight who has done a wonderful job of planting a new area of wildflowers by the scrape and also keeps us all updated with night-time footage of the wildlife in Farmer's Field, all the above tasks in addition to the ongoing general tidying, hedge trimming and regular maintenance. And finally an extra special thank you to Phil who has worked exceptionally hard for over twenty years leading the hardy team of volunteers to carry out Ernie Pottenger's wishes for Farmer's Field to be a wildlife refuge and community project.

#### **Cllr Maria Kemp**

**vi. Urchfont Pond Report April 2021**

- Algal blooms are by and large under control. However, blue green algae are still present and the warning signs have to remain in place.
- Dye is being applied regularly to limit the amount of light penetrating beneath the surface of the pond
- We are currently in one of the most difficult periods of the year for controlling the algae as they thrive in bright spring sunlight.
- The plants along the back wall of the pond are starting to grow and will start to take up large amounts of nutrients from the pond which should keep the algae in check.
- Bernice Brewster, our consultant, will be visiting to audit the progress of the pond in the next 6 to 8 weeks.

**Cllr Mark Botham**