

Present:

Village Volunteer Group Members Betty Millard & Margaret Carter
Clerk Ramune Mimiene
Assistant Clerk Jessica Thomson (Group Secretary)

On Zoom – Sue Ashwell, Cllrs Madeline Fraser & Emily Lankfer

Apologies – Cllr Anne Howell Jones, Cllr Caroline Underwood

No	Agenda Item	Who	Action/Status/Update
	VMAG Notes June 2024	ALL	There were no matters of accuracy from May 2024
	Matters arising not on the agenda	SA	- Update of Terms of Reference for 2024-24 incorporating VMAG's suggested amendments; sent to Chairman of Compliance AG for adoption by Council - thank you to BM and MF for their help - Issues of littering and fly-tipping at A1 layby and on Stirtloe Lane; contact with District Councillor Martin - still waiting for answer about CCTV- SA to follow up - Contact with County Councillor re Street lights conversion to LEDs KEN – waiting for a response about bats and potential joint working – SA to follow up - Playground updating; view of BVHT received leading to need to discuss in relation to other proposals for activities on the BVHT village playing field - BPC Councillors' view on VMAG proposals on insurance of village assets; St Mary's churchyard wall and Lychgate – no comments from full council – ACTION RM – To add Church wall (only) to assets register and insurance cover using the advised replacement cost
	Dog Waste Bin on Longhall Road and used by village residents	JT/SA	Following 2 years of complaints from residents about this regularly and repeatedly overfilled dog waste bin, and emails to Trinity Estates VMAG would like to propose a larger bin to be managed by BPC. MF thought that if we were paying and managing the bin then we should we find a location on Lucks Lane rather than the on Estate, however, MC made the point that people will not go out of their way to find this bin and it will be unlikely to solve the issue.

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			ACTION JT and EL will discuss again with Trinity Estates, and suggest that BPC pay for a larger bin (of the type elsewhere in the village for dog & general waster) which Trinity’s contractor would then continue to empty about once every 2 weeks. ACTION JT – to send map of area to all VMAG members
	Children’s Play Area	ALL	Asked for thoughts about the initial quotes. Discussion about the possibility of extending the area and other thoughts suggested by VHT trustees. All VMAG members present were keen to extend the area and find out more from the VHT how much land could be used. It was noted by MF and EL that a shaded area would be required, perhaps a “sail” or similar over some of the equipment, and this could also provide a chill out area when sunny. MF also suggested that we should hold a feedback group with younger kids and parents about what their priorities would be, similar to that held for the older children a few months ago. ACTION SA – to follow up with CU and report back to VMAG on suggested next steps
	New Hedgerow Regs	SA/RM	New regulations preventing trimming hedgerows between March and August and, although this is strictly intended for agricultural land, it is the view of VMAG that we should follow in principle where it is sensible to leave them. We will use common sense and continue to trim where it is important to keep hedges neat and tidy, like the Cemetery for instance, but always checking for active birds nest before any cutting. It is envisaged by Government guidance on the regulations that cutting to protect the safety of users on paths and roads is permitted, and again any such work undertaken by BPC would have due regard to the need to protect nesting birds. ACTION: RM and SA are to create a document for the handymen detailing how manage with hedges in the light of the new Regulations and associated government guidance.
	Q1 report on VMAG I&E	SA	Forecasting based on limited data for VMAG suggests that we will <u>not</u> overspend against budget. We have paid in full for 12-months of Diddington Street lighting electricity and 12-months of bin emptying, for current number of BPC bins. ACTION – RM & SA to review charging for electricity for Buckden street lighting

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			Nothing major to report except that the cemetery has been busier than usual. Thank you to Jess for responding to the additional workload, sometimes at short notice.
	Lychgate cleaning and repairs	RM	RM spoke with the contractor after it had been decided to leave the moss and lichen in situ except it needs to be removed to facilitate replacement and/or securing of roofing slates/tiles. MF has suggested a water Butt to catch water run off from the roof that could be used in the cemetery. ACTION JT – will enquire if there is a spare water butt that any residents are not using which we could move to the Lychgate to collect water for use in the Cemetery
	Next VMAG 18th September 2024	ALL	It has been agreed that we will not have an August VMAG due to holidays, so the next one will be the 18 th September If any urgent business is identified during this gap the Clerks will advise the chairman and where necessary and appropriate VMAG members will be asked to comment/advise and any urgent action needed will be undertaken. ACTION ALL VMAG members – any agenda items to JT no later than 10 September please.