

Sedbergh Parish Council

Queens Gardens Committee – Minutes of the meeting held on 19 August 2014

Present:

Cllrs. Allan, Lancaster and Atkins

Apologies:

Cllr. McPherson

Declarations of interest:

None

Motion that certain items be considered under Part II

KL proposed and it was agreed that some items should be discussed and minuted under Part II procedures having regard to the nature of the financial and contractual issues to be considered.

PART I

Minutes of the meeting held on 5 August 2014

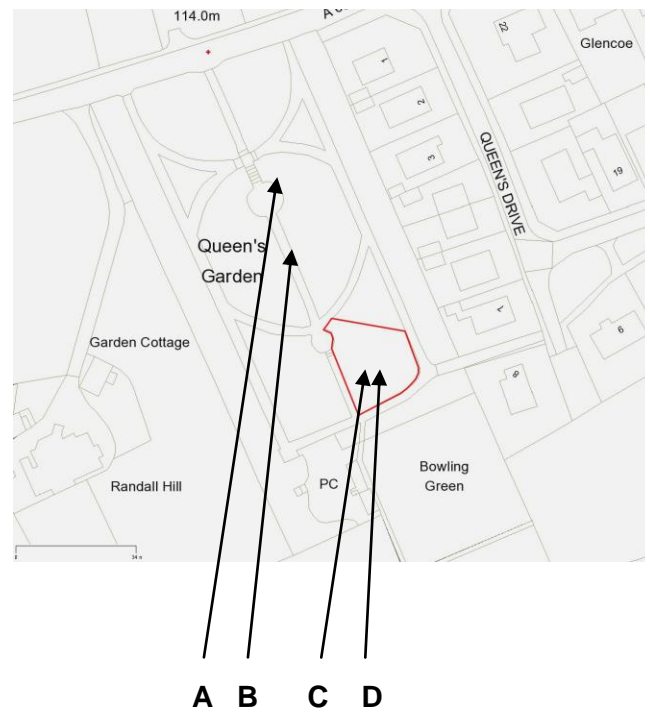
These were agreed as a true record

Immediate management programme:

It was agreed that the area indicated in red on the plan should be a priority for management as this open area overlooking the bowling green is most used by the public and is the area where immediate improvements could be achieved to demonstrate the Council's intent to more effectively manage the gardens in the future. It was agreed that the area should be 'hard-cleared' of overgrown vegetation (including self-sown tree seedlings) so as to re-establish an attractive grassed area which could be regularly mown.

It was acknowledged that this would necessitate the Council's gardener to commit additional hours over and above the present arrangements (2 hours/week).

Action – KL to approach Mike Hinson to seek his agreement to undertake this clearance work (including removal of all cut material) and to obtain an estimate of the time likely to be required.



Future management programme:

It was agreed that there is a need for removal/cutting back of the understorey (saplings, rhododendrons etc.) throughout the gardens but that advice should be sought on the extent of such clearance (if possible such advice to include some initial assessment of the condition of individual trees to assist in any future proposals for the management of the gardens). **Action** – JA to approach the YDNPA's Trees & Woodlands Officer.

The deteriorating condition of the 'bandstand' walls is a matter of concern and it was agreed that the Council should be recommended to seek estimates for the necessary repair and/or partial re-building of these walls in the next financial year.

Benches:

The four benches within the gardens were examined and it was agreed that benches A and C should be repaired by fixing new timber slats treated with an appropriate preservative. It was also agreed that bench D, which is in sound condition, should be treated with preservative. **Action** - AA to approach a local contractor. (Bench B should be removed from site to dry out to establish if it is sufficiently sound to justify timber treatment.)

Friends of Queens Gardens:

It was agreed that the next meeting should discuss how best to approach the task of forming a 'Friends of Queens Gardens' group (including ways of seeking public opinion/support for the proposal)..

Date for next meeting:

November (date and time to be agreed)