

Cononley Parish Council

Management of Open Spaces Policy (includes Licences for Use of Land and use of Metal Detectors) Adopted October 2018

1. Introduction

Open spaces are a vital part of the village environment. The spaces owned by the Parish Council have a significant impact on village life. In this document the term 'Open Spaces' refers to any space owned by the Parish Council, whether formally registered as a Village Green or not. It also includes Playing Fields and Allotments currently owned and managed by the Parish Council or which become owned or managed by the Parish Council during the life of this Policy.

The quality of open spaces affects everyone in the community. The purpose of this document is to:

- identify the relevant areas and their uses
- set out a development plan for improvement where necessary
- put in place a comprehensive maintenance plan

The maintenance plan must take account of the need to keep the areas fit for purpose, and in doing so will seek to:

- maintain an attractive appearance of the open spaces
- Reinforce local identity and pride in the village
- Enhance the physical character of an area, shaping future and existing development
- Improve physical and social inclusion
- Protect and enhance biodiversity and ecological habits
- Provide for children and young people's play and recreation
- Provide social, cultural, recreational, sporting and community facilities
- Protect and promote understanding of the historical, cultural and archaeological value of places
- Contribute to the creation of healthy places, including quiet areas
- Provide outdoor educational facilities
- Improve opportunities to enjoy contact with the natural world

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09/10/18

Minute:

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Chairman's Signature:



2. Management Framework

The day-to-day management of the open spaces is the responsibility of the Parish Council whether exercised directly or as Sole Trustee of the Cononley Village Playing Field Charitable Trust. The aim of this policy is to provide a structured approach to managing the open spaces and provide a basis for decision making and planning.

In particular this document:

- Sets out works and plans in relation to open spaces (globally and individually, where appropriate) on a rolling 12-month basis
- Identifies the impact of works and plans
- Is a 'public' document made available through the Council's website to residents of Cononley and others with an interest in the management of the open spaces in order that they can understand what is planned in terms of managing the open spaces and the reasons for any decisions at: Cononleypc.org.uk

There will often be a range of views on how open spaces should be managed. The Parish Council will seek to develop approaches, which (in its view) strike the best overall balance and take account of the range of considerations and views.

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3. Recreational Open Spaces

Aim	Maintenance of historic site of the Pinfold
Description	The Parish Council owns and maintains the site of the historic Pinfold. The site has been given over to maintenance as a wildlife area and is managed as per the advice provided to the Council by the Churches' Wildlife Trust in 2010. The aims are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Safety • Keeping the area tidy and attractive • Discouraging undesirable uses • Encouraging wildlife where appropriate • Controlling maintenance costs
Maintenance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grass cutting and maintenance (including strimming) • Tree maintenance (including annual inspection) • Planting bulbs where appropriate • Seeding in spring where necessary • Removal of suckers from trees • Removal of fallen branches • Provision and maintenance of bench
Timing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grass is cut twice a year in June and September and the grass is removed by the Lengthman. • Other maintenance is carried out as and when needed.
Cost	Parish Council pays for the Lengthman and other ad hoc contracts.

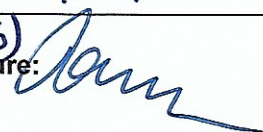
Aim	Maintenance of Dead Eye Pond
Description	The Parish Council owns and maintains the site. The site has been given over to be a nature reserve but no formal use of the site or management plan is in place. Aims are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Safety and access • Keeping the area as a nature reserve • Discouraging undesirable uses • Encouraging wildlife where appropriate • Controlling maintenance costs
Maintenance	No maintenance plan in place.
Timing	n/a
Cost	Parish Council pays the Lengthman and other ad hoc contracts.
Future Development	Parish Council currently liaising with North Yorkshire Wildlife Trust to investigate options for future use and management.

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4. Sports and Play Areas

Aim	Provide facilities for a range of outdoor sports and play activities
Description	<p>The Parish Council was gifted the Playing Field in 1935 to be held as such in trust, in perpetuity. The Field is managed by the Cononley Village Playing Field Trust (CVPFT) (Charities number 701641).</p> <p>The Field has specific areas set aside for outdoor sports and play activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a children's playground which was updated in 2010 • a skate park which was installed in 2005/2006 • a multi-use games area of tarmac construction • a grassed area / football pitch • a Millennium Pavilion which was erected c2000 • two stone stores (one built in 2010, the other the former toilet block) • a bowls green and a bowling pavilion which are managed by the Cononley Bowls Club • a stream, known locally as the Beck, runs down the east side of the playing fields
Maintenance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The CVPFT is responsible for regular fortnightly inspections of the equipment • Inspection reports are made available to the Parish Council as Sole Trustee of the CVPFT at the monthly meeting of the Trust • Repair or replacement of play equipment and the general maintenance of the grounds is the responsibility of the CVPFT • Play equipment is subject to an annual RoSPA or similar organisation, inspection • Currently, the Lengthman holds the contract for maintenance of the Playing Fields
Timing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grass-cutting: March/April and September/October dependent upon growing season • Annual play inspection by a recognised body • Monthly recorded risk assessments of play areas and equipment
Cost	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CVPFT pays for all maintenance costs including the Lengthman contract and other ad hoc services. • Insurance for the playing field is included in the Parish Council's Public Liability insurance.
Future development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Apply for the Playing Field to be designated a Fields in Trust Queen Elizabeth II Playing Field.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Offer continuing support to the CVPFT in future projects to develop and maintain the Field further (dependent upon the needs of the community).
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5. Habitat and Conservation

Aim	<p>The Parish Council seeks to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • preserve the local habitat and where feasible, enhance it, subject to its other responsibilities and aims in managing the open spaces.
Description	All those areas of open space including the trees and bushes, flora and fauna growing on the land and the water flowing through it.
Maintenance	Identify trees growing on Parish Council land and consider what short- and long-term maintenance is required, if necessary through consultation with professional arboriculture consultants.
Timing	Maintenance will be carried out on an ad hoc basis throughout the year but with regard to sensitive periods for wildlife.

6. Global

Aim	<p>The Parish Council seeks to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • preserve the extent and aspect of open spaces <p>Open spaces in the context of Cononley Village can include roadside benches and the bus shelter on Crosshills Road (which is owned by the Parish Council).</p>
Description	<p>Open Spaces will be monitored for undesirable use. Undesirable uses include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inappropriate dog exercising • Dog fouling • Substance abuse • Littering • Vandalism
Maintenance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Benches will be cleaned and preservative applied if necessary each year. Wood will be inspected by the Lengthman and replaced as and when necessary. • Roadside weeds will be controlled. • Paths owned by the Parish Council kept passable through weed and hedge maintenance. • Road signs will be cleaned once a year. • Where possible, surrounding foliage around signs cleared once a year. • An annual village litter pick

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8. Licences for Casual use of Land

Anyone wishing to hold an event on an open space owned by the Parish Council will be required to:

- Seek Council permission (in writing) from the Clerk for such an event, at least one calendar month before the event is due to take place
- Be responsible for the clearance of any debris resulting from the event
- Be responsible for safety of people attending such an event (the Council has a general risk assessment and method statement (RAMS) for each open space, however, event organizers should ensure that they have produced any RAMS appropriate for the event)
- Assume responsibility, either personally or by payment, for any damage which needs to be rectified

For events using the Playing Field, permission must be sought from the Sole Trustee of the Cononley Village Playing Field Trust.

9. Metal detecting

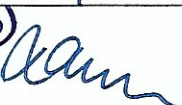
Anyone wishing to use a metal detector on Council owned land (including the Playing Field) must apply to the Clerk for permission to do so. Detecting without permission will result in the Council viewing the removal of objects of cultural or financial value from its land as theft and will report to the Police accordingly. Permission will only be granted on the applicant agreeing to the National Council for Metal Detecting Model Search Agreement, but will otherwise not be unreasonably withheld.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The tenants must not obstruct these paths with any form of rubble, glass, soil or clippings but either compost organic material or dispose of inorganic material appropriately, in accordance with the terms of the tenancy agreement. • The Allotment committee will carry out quarterly inspections. • The Clerk will write to those allotment tenants whose allotments are identified as under-cultivated or other matters identified, with a date by which the allotment is to be brought back to the state or level of cultivation expected, in accordance with the terms of the tenancy agreement. • If, on reinspection the Allotment Committee's assessment demonstrates that sufficient action has not been taken, the Allotment Committee may resolve to end the tenancy in accordance with the terms of the tenancy agreement.
Cost	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Allotments should be self-financing through allotment rents. • Rent review every three years from January 2013 for implementation the following year.
Future development	<p>Allotment Committee to consider:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • survey of plots and revision of boundaries • revision of policy relating to amount of allotment given over to the raising of poultry • enforcement of the Allotment Act 1950 prohibition on the keeping of cockerels

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