

**STANSTED MOUNTFITCHET PARISH COUNCIL****OPEN SPACES**

MINUTES of a meeting of the OPEN SPACES COMMITTEE held at 7.45pm on Wednesday 23 February 2011 at Crafton Green House, 72 Chapel Hill, Stansted Mountfitchet, Essex

**PRESENT:** Cllr J Freeman (Chairman), Cllrs I Evans, J Hudson, T Owen, R Rawlinson, J Salmon, G Sell, W Stiles and V Trundle

**ATTENDING:** Mrs R Clifford – Clerk

**340 APOLOGIES**

For absence received from Cllr C Dean, for lateness from Cllr I Evans.

**341 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST -** None.

**342 MINUTES**

There being no amendments, the minutes of the meeting held on 12 January were approved.

**343 MATTERS ARISING**

291 – Cllr Sell thanked Mr Sutton for cleaning up the Coronation Shelter and the bus shelter in Silver Street.

**344 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

- a Playing Fields magazine
- b Recreation Ground – Community Payback team coming to work on the far end on 1 March.
- c Request from “Little Scrummers” rugby organisation to use the Recreation Ground for mini rugby training. The Clerk reported that she had met with the organiser and discussed this in more detail. Their aim would be to hold two sessions starting at 9am and finishing around 11am. Mrs Clifford had pointed out lack of toilet facilities and the likelihood of dog mess on the rec and these were taken on board. As a public open space the Council does not officially hire out the rec, but members were inclined to support this initiative.

It was agreed to support “Little Scrummers” for a trial season subject to certain terms and conditions such as no parent parking anywhere on the Recreation Ground road, removal of any litter afterwards and all subject to their own insurance.

**345 TREE MATTERS**a General

The work on trees at the Recreation Ground and Bentfield Play Area has been completed, as has the removal of the willow trunk from the Fountain island.

b TPO's

The Clerk had received e-mails from Mr McDonald who was concerned at the recent felling of a tree in the rear garden of a property on Chapel Hill. This had prompted him to liaise with UDC. The Clerk reminded members that Essex County Council had revoked all of their Tree Preservation Orders, and responsibility now lay with UDC. A review of all Orders had commenced last year and the Parish Council had been notified of new Orders relating to many properties to the west of the village – nothing had been heard about the remainder.

Mr McDonald had asked the Chief Executive of UDC when the remaining Orders would be in place and it seemed that the survey was nearing completion and new Orders should be made in the near future. Mr McDonald had also asked who to contact out-of-hours if parishioners, or indeed the Parish Council, became aware of tree felling – this information is awaited. Cllr Salmon considered it very irresponsible of ECC to have revoked TPO's before UDC had been able to survey all of the trees.

Cllr Stiles raised a query about the felling of a tree at Croft House – the Clerk believed this had received consent but would check.

**346 LITTER**

a General

Cllr Evans said she had received complaints about horse muck left on the pavements up Church Road and wondered if any action could be taken to prevent this happening. She had also received requests for dog and litter bins at Foresthall Park. The Clerk explained the position regarding Foresthall Park which is still in private ownership and therefore responsibility for litter lies with the developers until such time as the land is handed over to a local authority. It was agreed that the Clerk should write to the stables, acknowledging the right of horses to pass along bridleways, but asking, where possible, that the horses stay off the pavements. There is no legal duty on horse riders to clear up horse muck.

b Keep Uttlesford Tidy Campaign

As agreed at the last meeting, the Parish Council was organising litter picks on the mornings of 5 and 6 March. An article was included in the Link about to be circulated seeking volunteers. Cllr Freeman stated that she thought youngsters from the Youth Centre would take part as part of their Duke of Edinburgh scheme.

Cllr Freeman would be available on the Sunday morning to hand out litter pickers, bags etc, but somebody else would need to do this on the Saturday. Cllr Sell suggested that the Clerk ask Mr Frogley if he would be able to take this on. Cllr Freeman appealed for as many councillors as possible to turn out also to help.

**347 GARDENING**

Noted that the hedges had all recently been cut and flower beds weeded.

**348 CEMETERY**

No interments to report. The Clerk was preparing for the inspection of memorials – date to be notified.

**349 STANSTED IN BLOOM**

Cllr Trundle reported that she and Cllr Evans have been discussing this year's event further. For judging purposes, the village will be divided up using the Neighbourhood Watch areas, and one garden will be chosen from each area for the judges to consider. The judges are in place. Judging will probably take place on the last Saturday in June, or 2 July, following which a presentation will be held. Entry forms will appear in the May edition of the Link magazine. Local businesses are being asked to donate prizes.

The schools have indicated their willingness to take part – probably by designing posters. It was suggested that the MMCC pupils could design a new certificate to be presented.

**350 FOOTPATHS**

Cllr Stiles' report had been circulated and was noted. No further progress on the new map until the outcome of the boundary review is known. The Clerk is in discussion with the Rights of Way officer at ECC regarding a grant – usually they like descriptions of walks to be included, but the Council has already agreed to update the Saunters Round Stansted booklet which will detail walks. ECC to be asked if this will suffice for purposes of the grant.

**351 PLAY EQUIPMENT -** nothing to report.

**352 POND AND BROOK**

Meeting with possible contractor to take place in March.

**353 BIRCHANGER WOOD**

Minutes of the last meeting had been received – attended by Cllr Salmon and Mr McDonald. The new path is being well used and the Trust would like to lay more paths. A storage compound is still desired although planning consent will be required. Noted that eleven pupils from Birchwood School will be working in the Wood as part of their Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme.

**354 AREA WARDENS' REPORTS**

Cllr Stiles' report had been received in advance of the meeting.

Meeting closed 8.55pm