

STANSTED MOUNTFITCHET PARISH COUNCIL**OPEN SPACES**

MINUTES of a meeting of the OPEN SPACES COMMITTEE held at 7.45pm on Wednesday 5 October 2011 at Crafton Green House, 72 Chapel Hill, Stansted Mountfitchet, Essex

PRESENT: Cllr. J Freeman (Chairman), Cllrs D Brett, C Dean, T Owen, J Salmon, G Sell, W Stiles and V Trundle

ATTENDING: Mrs R Clifford - Clerk

188 APOLOGIES:

For absence received from Cllr I Evans, and for lateness from Cllr D Brett.

189 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST – None**190 MINUTES**

137 – Cllr Sell's name was added under Apologies. There being no further amendments, the minutes of the meeting held on 7 September 2011 were approved.

[Cllr Brett joined the meeting]

191 MATTERS ARISING

146 – Stansted in Bloom - Cllr Trundle stated that she had spoken to Cy Fogel at "You're Furnished" and he would be accompanying her to St Mary's Primary School to present prizes/ sponsorship to the pupils. He will also visit pupils at MMCC on a date yet to be agreed.

192 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

A Essex Playing Fields AGM to be held on 27 October 2011.

193 TREE MATTERS

The Clerk reported that a date is still awaited to fell the conifer at the Windmill, undertake surgery to trees at Windmill Fields and to the lime trees in Cooper's Alley to clear them from overhanging the footpath. Noted that the basal growth on the lime tree on the Recreation Ground, adjacent to the footpath to the Windmill, has re-grown and needs to be cut back – Levi to be asked to undertake if he is happy.

194 LITTER

Members noted that Station Road has improved. The new litter bin for the bus stop at the top of Chapel Hill is on order. Leaves on footpaths due to be swept by UDC in the near future.

Foresthall Park Residents' Association will be undertaking a litter pick within the development on Saturday starting at 11am on Walson Way.

195 CEMETERY

Memorials had been approved for the graves of Jonathan Moore, Rosemary Northcote and Thelma Turner.

196 FOOTPATHS

Cllr Stiles' report number 23 had been received and circulated ahead of the meeting and sent to Essex County Council. The Chairman thanked Cllr Stiles for his continued interest in the paths.

With regard to the footpath maps, it was agreed that, once received, these would be distributed around the new homes on Foresthall Park, and supplies left at other locations within the village for anyone who is interested, ie Guest Houses, Linden House, estate agents and shops. Copies would also go into the Welcome Packs. Clerk to let Birchanger Parish Council know that these are being circulated.

Discussion turned to the maintenance of the surface of the village twitchels – the Clerk will contact ECC Highways to establish responsibility. Some of them require weed clearance. Members to look at the surface of the paths and let the Clerk know which ones are in a poor condition.

Finally, Cllr Stiles informed members that he is well advanced with preparation of the new booklet of walks to replace the "Saunters round Stansted". He hopes that this will be published during the current year if finances allow.

197 GARDENING AND GRASS CUTTING

Little to report – Mr Sykes' comments relating to planting for next Summer are still awaited.

198 RECREATION GROUND

Along with Cllrs Dean and Salmon, the Clerk had met with Mr and Mrs Shewry to discuss the western boundary of the Recreation Ground, adjacent to Windmill Close. Mr Shewry had acknowledged that he could not prevent the Council from clearing the area to plant a hedge, but requested that some form of screening be provided between his windows and the Recreation Ground until such time as the new hedge becomes established.

Cllrs Brett and Owen believed that this should be the responsibility of the Shewry's themselves as they had purchased their property knowing the situation – the cost of screening could add significantly to the Council's costs for this project. Agreed to wait until costs were received prior to making any further decisions.

199 POND AND BROOK

Arron Clark has removed the overhanging branch and will return shortly to remove lots of the irises and grasses which have now taken over again.

200 BIRCHANGER WOOD

Cllrs Sell and Salmon were unable to attend the recent meeting but Cllr Sell reported that the Trustees are hoping to be in a position to proceed with the second stage of the

footpath through the Wood in the near future. The Trustees are now much more active, thanks largely to the input from Daphne Wallace-Jarvis to whom a debt of gratitude is owed.

Cllr Salmon referred to the recent resignation of Mr Ken MacDonald as one of this Council's Trustees. He believed that there was no reason why Mrs Wallace-Jarvis could not be asked to take on this role – she already attends all the meetings, is very well-informed and he believed she would represent the parish very well.

It was agreed that the Clerk should approach Mrs Wallace-Jarvis and, if she agreed, refer the matter back to Open Spaces committee for a final decision.

201 AREA WARDENS REPORT

Reports were received from Cllrs Stiles and Trundle.

202 BUDGET 2012/13

The Clerk reminded members that an initial report from Cllr Jones had been circulated before the summer recess. This was the final opportunity for members to make suggestions for items to be considered for the next year. Cllr Sell stated that the freeze on District and County capital grants would mean that they may well look to town and parish councils to take on more responsibilities.

Meeting closed at 8.35pm