

STANSTED MOUNTFITCHET PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of a meeting of the OPEN SPACES COMMITTEE held at 7.45pm on Wednesday 7 September 2011 at Crafton Green House, 72 Chapel Hill, Stansted Mountfitchet, Essex

PRESENT: Cllr. J Freeman (Chairman), Cllrs D Brett, C Dean, I Evans, T Owen, J Salmon, V Trundle and W Stiles – Minutes

ATTENDING: R Woodcock Esq.

APOLOGIES:

For absence received from Mrs R Clifford – Clerk owing to an unavoidable family commitment. The Clerk's report was received and considered as part of the agenda items.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST – None

MINUTES

There being no amendments, the minutes of the meeting held on 22 June 2011 were approved.

MATTERS ARISING - None

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT – Nothing to Report

TREE MATTERS

The Clerk reported that work has been authorised 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.

LITTER

The members noted that Station Road would need a good clean-up when the current resurfacing works are completed.

GARDENING AND GRASS CUTTING

The Clerk reported that we are coming to the end of our three-year contract for both services and as the date of a handover of Forest Hall Park is still uncertain recommended that the Committee consider extending each contract by one year through to 31 March 2013. By this time next year we should know when the handover is due and how much additional work needs to be included within the tender documents. Both our existing contractors have indicated that they would be happy with this extension.

RESOLVED: That the existing contracts for gardening and grass cutting be extended until 31 March 2011 – Proposed by Cllr J Freeman, seconded by Cllr J Salmon and agreed unanimously.

Mrs Clifford reported that weed-killing treatment is needed at Five Acres and had been logged for early next year.

Cllr Freeman reported that the grass was in very poor condition at the High Lane/ B1383 junction, in the area around the Sworders bench and needed treatment and reseeding.

Members suggested the following areas for bulb planting this autumn: Church Road – both sides south of the MMCC and approaching Burton End just over the motorway bridge; Bentfield Gardens play area – behind the lime trees and also near the junction of Cooper's alley with Bentfield Gardens; Lower Street near the entrance of the Youth Centre.

Cllr Trundle suggested that flower boxes be provided attached to the bus shelters.

Cllr Freeman mentioned that it would not be possible to plant bulbs this season at the High Lane/ Brewery Lane junction as the residents were making improvements to the condition of the grass which needed time to rejuvenate.

Recreation Ground – The Clerk reported that the area in front of Windmill Fields needs some more weed and bramble removal and this would be done shortly by our volunteer. Arrangements will then be made to plant the new hedge to match the other hedges around the perimeter. Cllr Dean raised whether there should be some further planting in the area in front of the new hedge once the brambles have been cleared or whether this area should be seeded. Agreed to request the Clerk to check the minutes on previous discussion of this item.

Gardening – Cllrs Freeman and Salmon and Mrs Clifford have had discussions with Peter Sykes on options for planting in summer 2012 bearing in mind the Diamond Jubilee and the Olympics and the committee will have further information when Peter Sykes' report is received. Members' suggestions are welcomed.

CEMETERY

The interment of Eileen Barrett had taken place on 2 June, Robert Ganderton on 14 July and Murdina Spence on 19 July.

Memorials had been approved for Elaine Rose Jordan and Colin John Lawrence.

Memorial Testing: the Faculty from the Church of England has been received and the Clerk will contact the contractor for a start date so that we can notify those responsible for memorials.

Cllrs. J Freeman J Salmon would arrange a date for their periodic inspection of the Cemetery.

STANSTED IN BLOOM

Cllr Trundle reported that You're Furnished had agreed to continue to provide sponsorship to the schools and continue to allow the displays in their shop window.

Cllr Trundle enquired whether we had received any response from Tesco about possible sponsorship [*Ruth – can you provide an answer for the minutes?*]

FOOTPATHS

Cllr Stiles report was received and the condition of FP23 and FP24 was highlighted. The parish could benefit if there was a Parish Paths Partnership (P3) working party of volunteers who are able and willing to carry small improvements to the local public footpaths. It was agreed that this could form a useful item for The Link.

The new footpath map is now with the printer and subject to a final draft, 2000 copies should be available in the near future.

A disc containing the footpath map has now been received and this should facilitate the completion of the updated Saunters Round Stansted booklet.

POND AND BROOK

Arron Clark will shortly be clearing back and removing the overhanging branch that could not be removed when the birds were nesting.

BIRCHANGER WOOD

The resignation of Ken McDonald has been received as one of our Trustees on the Birchanger Wood Committee. He will continue on a temporary basis until a suitable replacement has been identified. It was agreed that we should invite volunteers to apply via The Link.

FOUNTAIN REFURBISHMENT

No news has yet been received on our grant application and this is being progressed by the Clerk.

Information has been sought from 8 utility companies on details of their underground services but only 4 have responded to date. The information from BT is of most concern as they have services down the southern side of the triangle immediately adjacent to the grass and they specify the type of trees that should not be planted within certain distances of the cables. This could severely impact on our plans for a suitable tree to replace the willow. The Clerk is investigating what species of tree may be suitable for the site and will further advise the committee when more information is available.

PLAY EQUIPMENT PROJECT

Following discussions with officers and members at UDC, the Clerk has submitted an application for funding the play equipment. Hopefully, if we are successful, this will be met from the S106 Community Fund resulting from the development at Foresthall Park.

AREA WARDENS REPORT

A report was received from Cllr Stiles.

Cllr Trundle mentioned that the area in front of the Co-op and Tesco was in poor condition.

Cllr Dean reported that puddles were again forming at the entrance to the Recreation Ground at the Lopy's Hill entrance and also at the lower entrance of children's play area. Cllr Salmon agreed to investigate. *[Ruth*

– have we got any previous agreed actions for this two muddy areas that could go in the minute?]

Meeting closed at 8.43pm