

MINUTES of a meeting of the OPEN SPACES COMMITTEE held at 7.45pm on Wednesday 20 February 2019 in the Council Offices, 72 Chapel Hill, Stansted Mountfitchet, Essex

PRESENT: Cllr S Dunn (Chairman), Cllrs M Caton, J Hudson, J Kavanagh, and V Trundle

ATTENDING: Cllr D Wallace-Jarvis
Mrs R Clifford (Clerk)
Mr T Lloyd (Assistant to the Clerk)
2 members of the public

401 TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllrs A Barnes, C Dean and F Richards

402 TO RECEIVE DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST - none

403 TO RECEIVE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 16 JANUARY 2019

The minutes were approved as a full and accurate record.

404 MATTERS ARISING

The Clerk reported that following a site visit she felt that 9 bollards would be needed at Windmill Fields to create an effective barrier and prevent vehicles being parked on the grass. The cost of the work is likely to be around £500. She undertook to look at the budget to see if she could find a way of funding the work. It was agreed to consult with local residents before any final decision was made.

The Clerk reported that she had been advised that none of the land at Foresthall Park which is being conveyed to the Parish Council as Public Open Space can be sold. This information has been passed to the resident who enquired about extending his garden; he has now requested whether he can move his garden fence in line with the original boundary as evidenced by the remaining metal posts. The Clerk will endeavour to obtain written evidence of the original boundary line and then bring the matter to Full Council for consideration.

405 TO HEAR A PRESENTATION FROM KEIRAN OLIVIER RE A COMMUNITY GARDENING PROJECT

Mrs Olivier outlined her plans to establish a community gardening project. She is in the process of applying for charity status for her group which will be called Human Roots. Her initial plans cover work in the Day Centre Garden and on an allotment plot they have been allocated at Elms Farm. She appealed for support from the Council in the form of administration support, guidance on legal aspects and funding.

406 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The basketball practice area at Bentfield Green is now fully operational. The Chairman has attempted a few shots into the basket but will need a bit more practice to perfect her slam dunk.

407 LITTER

The Assistant to the Clerk reported that Churchill's had agreed to sponsor the litter pick again this year. They will be paying for an advert in The Dunmow Reporter. It was agreed that the Clerk would contact The Stansted Litter Pickers and try to engage them in organising the event.

The Brook at the back of the Castle Maltings Building has become a problem area with a lot of unsightly litter. The Clerk agreed to contact the owners of the building and request a combination lock on the gate to stop people using the short cut route and engaging in anti-social littering.

408 FOOTPATHS

- (a) The footpath report will be forwarded to members as soon as it is received from Mr Stiles.
- (b) Along with the landowner and Essex Public Rights of Way officer, the Clerk will be attending a site meeting to consider a slight re-routing of FP50. This would bring the path onto the route of the new permissive path crossing the public open space at Elms Farm. Members confirmed that in principle they would be happy with such a re-routing. Mrs Clifford will notify members of the outcome of the meeting in due course.

409 CEMETERY - INTERMENTS AND MEMORIALS

The Clerk reported the interments of Gerald Childs and Graham Merton and memorials for Derek Honour and Molly Bannister.

410 TREE MATTERS

Most Spencer Close residents have paid their contributions towards the cost of the tree work and so Cllr Richards will contact the contractor to schedule the work.

411 ALLOTMENTS

The Assistant to the Clerk reported that all the plots had been allocated and paid for. An extra plot has been created. There are four people on the waiting list.

412 ELMS FARM: WORKING GROUP - TO RECEIVE A REPORT FROM THE CHAIRMAN

The Chairman has not been able to arrange a meeting with the developer. There are a number of issues that will have to be resolved if a bonfire and fireworks display is to be staged on the site, and consideration needs to be given to appearance, maintenance, bins etc. The Chairman undertook to convene a meeting of the working group.

413 STANSTED IN BLOOM

Judging for this year's event will take place on Saturday 20 July followed by a prize-giving presentation on Saturday 7 September.

414 BIRCHANGER WOOD

A letter from Cllr Wallace-Jarvis signing-off as Secretary of the original trust had been circulated prior to the meeting.

Meeting closed 8.50 pm

DRAFT