

MINUTES of a meeting of the OPEN SPACES COMMITTEE held at 8.00pm on Wednesday 28 November 2018 in the Library, 72 Chapel Hill, Stansted Mountfitchet, Essex

**PRESENT:** Cllr S Dunn (Chairman) Cllrs A Barnes, J Hudson, J Kavanagh, F Richards and V Trundle.

**ATTENDING:** Mrs R Clifford (Clerk)  
Mr T Lloyd (Asst. to the Clerk)  
Cllrs Jones, O'Brien and Wallace-Jarvis  
two members of the public

**312 TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE - none.**

**313 TO RECEIVE DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST - none.**

**314 TO RECEIVE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 10 OCTOBER 2018**

The minutes had been approved at the Full Council Meeting on Wednesday 31 October.

**315 MATTERS ARISING - none.**

**316 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT - nothing to report.**

**317 LITTER**

The Clerk reported on fly-tipping on Pennington Lane.

**318 FOOTPATHS**

- a) The report from Bill Stiles had been circulated. County Cllr Gooding had added some comments.
- b) Report/request from Cllr Wallace-Jarvis

Cllr Wallace-Jarvis's report had been circulated with the agenda and the Chairman invite her to talk it through to the committee.

(1) A "concessionary path" link from High Lane to the Aubrey Buxton Nature Reserve.

It was recognised that the land owner, having blocked off one unofficial route, was unlikely to agree to this partly due to hazardous nature of the brook crossing and the liability that would fall upon him in the event of an accident.

Cllr Richards proposed the following:

**RESOLUTION** That no further action be taken on this proposal.

The proposal was seconded by Cllr Kavanagh and agreed unanimously.

(2) The creation of a PROW along the southern boundary of the Aubrey Buxton Nature Reserve

After discussion it was agreed that this unofficial route was very well-walked and had been for many, many years without ever having been blocked off by the landowner. Cllr Kavanagh proposed the following

**RESOLUTION** that Essex County Council be requested to consult with the land owner with view to designating this path as a Public Right of Way.

The proposal was seconded by Cllr Richards and agreed unanimously.

(3) The creation of a safe walking (cycling?) route from Stansted to Bishop's Stortford via PROWs Nos 14/15/25 to Pesterford Bridge, PROW footpath Birchanger No. 28, then Gypsy Lane, PROW footpath Birchanger No. 29 and thence to PROW footpath No.63 to Stortford.

The Clerk commented that the Neighbourhood Plan Highways Group had included the desire for such a route in the emerging draft Plan. Cllr Dunn proposed the following

**RESOLUTION** That the Parish Council support BSDFA in trying to establish an important, but safe pedestrian footpath and footway, (plus a cycleway?) for local residents, of both Hertfordshire and Essex, and the regeneration of this area to complete a long-distance PROW footpath from London to Stansted via Bishop's Stortford.

The proposal was seconded by Cllr Richards and agreed unanimously.

### 319 CEMETERY

The Clerk reported the interment of John Follows and memorials for the graves of Sharon Dorothy Johns and Margaret May Lee.

### 320 TO CONSIDER A REQUEST FROM THE TENNIS CLUB TO RENEW THE LEASE

The Clerk gave members some background to the arrangement with the Tennis Club and to the Memorandum of Understanding to retain the club as an affordable facility for the community. After brief discussion, Cllr Richards proposed the following:

**RESOLUTION** That the lease be renewed for a period of 21 years, with the rent increasing to £1,000 a year in June 2019 and with five-yearly reviews thereafter.

The proposal was seconded by Cllr Hudson and agreed unanimously.

### 321 TREE MATTERS : TO ESTABLISH A WORKING GROUP TO CONSIDER TREE-RELATED ISSUES AT:

- a) Five Acres
- b) Newman's Plantation

Cllrs Barnes, Kavanagh and O'Brien agreed to serve on the working group and work with Tree Warden, Daniel Brett. The Chairman undertook to contact the resident at Five Acres and visit him to inspect the trees there.

**322 ALLOTMENTS - TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE AND APPROVE THE HEADS OF TERMS FOR THE LEASE WITH THE GEMMILL FAMILY**

The Clerk reported that she had studied the 99-year lease Heads of Terms and had requested one amendment and they have accepted that the word "reasonable" be inserted into the Car park clause to protect the Council from any unreasonable request from the land owners. This has been agreed so she asked the committee to approve her signing the document.

Cllr Barnes proposed the following:

**RESOLUTION** That the document be signed by the Clerk.

Seconded by Cllr Dunn and agreed unanimously.

The Assistant to the Clerk reported that 20 people had paid the £20.00 registration fee. The tenancy agreements will run from January to January.

**323 FORESTHALL PARK - FUTURE MAINTENANCE AND FUNDING PROPOSALS**

The Clerk referred to the paper drafted some months previously by Cllr Jones, illustrating a possible route for on-going funding of maintenance at Foresthall Park. He suggested that the capital sum that the Council will receive from the developers should be used to offset the cost of maintaining the estates open spaces for a period of 8 to 9 years. From that point onwards the total cost would have to be covered from the precept but introduced gradually and increased over the period, thus preventing a large increase in the precept in any one year.

After discussion, Cllr Richards proposed the following:

**RESOLUTION** That the funding proposal from Cllr Jones be accepted.

Seconded by Cllr Dunn and agreed unanimously.

**324 ELMS FARM - PUBLIC OPEN SPACE WORKING GROUP MEETING REQUIRED**

The Clerk stressed the importance of agreeing action points before the contractors vacate the site. Cllr Dunn agreed to chase up her contact at Crest Nicholson and to convene a meeting early in the new year.

**225 STANSTED IN BLOOM-** nothing to report.

**226 BIRCHANGER WOOD**

Cllr Wallace-Jarvis reported that the minutes from the last meeting will soon be distributed.

Meeting closed 9.03pm