

MINUTES of a meeting of the OPEN SPACES COMMITTEE held at 7.45pm on Wednesday 23 May 2018 in the Council Offices, 72 Chapel Hill, Stansted Mountfitchet, Essex

**PRESENT:** Cllr S Dunn (Chairman), Cllrs C Dean, J Kavanagh, F Richards and V Trundle.

**ATTENDING:** Cllrs J O'Brien and D Wallace-Jarvis  
Mrs R Clifford (Clerk)  
3 members of the public

**79 TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Cllrs M Caton, J Hudson and R Rands. Mr T Lloyd.

**80 TO RECEIVE DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST - none**

**81 TO RECEIVE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS HELD ON WEDNESDAY 11 AND 25 APRIL 2018**

**RESOLVED** to accept the minutes of both meetings.

**82 MATTERS ARISING**

513 – the Clerk reported that there would be a site visit the following morning to look at the planter proposed for Mountfitchet Road/Church Road – 10.30am, any member welcome.

514 – Cllr Dean referred to the reference to railings for Mountfitchet Green. She hoped that, if these were installed, they would be inside the hedge and this would be retained. It has been well maintained this year and currently looks good. Cllr O'Brien commented that it has previously looked dreadful and could do so again very easily. Agreed that all members should try to look at the hedge prior to the next meeting and take a decision then. Cllr Dean asked if the noticeboard had yet been relocated to Croasdaile Road.

16 – the Clerk reported that Mrs Gott has confirmed that she will carry on as Tennis Club representative until the end of this Council term in May 2019.

17 – Cllr O'Brien stated that this should read "volunteers" and not himself.

**83 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT - nothing to report**

**84 TREE MATTERS**

- a) The Chairman reported that Daniel Brett has agreed to take on the role of voluntary tree warden. An issue regarding a maple on the Recreation Ground was discussed and it was agreed that the Clerk should seek consent to fell this tree which is diseased.

Noted that a tree between the railway station and Waterside, has fallen across the Brook. Cllr O'Brien expressed concern about tenants who cut down trees in private gardens.

- b) TPO's in Brewery Lane. A resident had brought to the Council's attention the temporary TPO's on several trees in Brewery Lane and she was seeking support to have these made permanent. After brief discussion it was unanimously agreed to support this measure and the Clerk would

confirm this in writing to UDC. She would also follow up the request to include Brewery Lane and roads in the St John's Area within the Conservation Area.

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**85 LITTER**

Cllr Richards reported that the litter pick had gone well but it would have been nice to have a few more councillors present. A date for the next event will be set during the Summer. Cllr Kavanagh suggested inviting the pubs to take part as this time round several glasses were found around the village.

The bin at the top of Lopyy's Hill was over-flowing on Sunday despite having been emptied on Saturday. Clerk to discuss with Lucy to see if this is a regular thing or exceptional due to the fine weather. Trade waste bins at rear of Castle Maltings being left outside again.

**86 FOOTPATHS**

The Chairman reported that, together with the Clerk, she had met prior to this meeting with some volunteers who were interested in pursuing the PPP scheme. They were keen to support Mr Stiles in walking the village paths and reporting any faults which need attention – moreover they are happy to deal with those too.

On that basis, it was agreed that the Council should sign up to the Essex PPP scheme.

**87 CEMETERY**

The Clerk reported two interments.

**88 REQUEST TO PURCHASE PART OF NEWMAN'S PLANTATION, FORESTHALL PARK**

A request from two residents who wished to extend their back gardens was discussed. Various issues were discussed including the route of the Public Right of Way, the history of the Plantation etc. Comments were made that, had the woodland not been worth preserving, then the developers would have been allowed to build on it and, if permission was granted, it could set a precedent.

Having been proposed by Cllr Richards and seconded by Cllr Kavanagh, it was unanimously

**RESOLVED** not to sell any part of Newman's Plantation.

It was further noted that there was a compost bin sitting in the Plantation and possibly an unauthorised gateway to be investigated.

**89 REQUEST TO PURCHASE PART OF COOPER'S ALLEY (BENTFIELD GARDENS) OPEN SPACE**

A request from a resident to purchase a 1.5m strip of land adjacent to her back garden was considered. As in the case above, a number of back gardens adjoin the public open space at this location and the granting of permission could set a precedent for other requests to follow. Having been proposed by Cllr Dunn and seconded by Cllr Dean, it was unanimously

**RESOLVED** not to sell any part of Bentfield Gardens Open Space.

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**90 FORESTHALL PARK – ADOPTION OF WESTERN FOOTPATH**

As part of the transfer of public open spaces from Croudace to the Parish Council, members were asked to consider adopting the Public Right of Way which runs from Forest Hall Road to Stoney Common. It had not previously been realised that this formed part of the Croudace site as they had erected fencing on the eastern boundary of the path which made it seem that that was their boundary. The Council's solicitor had asked whether members were happy to take on the path.

After discussion, and having been proposed by Cllr Richards and seconded by Cllr Kavanagh, it was unanimously

**RESOLVED** that the path should be included in the land for adoption.

Further, Mr Lloyd was authorised to obtain quotes for resurfacing the path with a suitable material. This would then be considered further by the committee with a view to asking UDC that the costs be met from the FHP S.106 Community Fund.

**91 ELSENHAM CRICKET CLUB – NEW PAVILION**

Cllr Sell had raised this matter at the previous Full Council meeting. Junior members playing for Stansted Hall and Elsenham Cricket Club play their games in Elsenham but the pavilion burnt down some time ago. The Club is trying to raise funds for a replacement and Cllr Sell had asked if the Parish Council could send a letter of support as this may assist the Club with grant applications. Agreed to ask the Council Chairman to send a suitable letter.

**92 STANSTED IN BLOOM**

Our gardening contractors, GWB Horticulture, have sponsored the Winner's Shields which are now in the office and will have the names of the winners added each year. Gareth has also agreed to judge the judging process.

**93 BIRCHANGER WOOD**

Cllr Wallace-Jarvis reported that the next meeting would be held on 24 May. Correspondence with the Charity Commission is on-going regarding the application to become a Community Interest Organisation but, even when this is complete, the original Trust will still continue.

Meeting closed 8.55pm