

MINUTES of a meeting of the OPEN SPACES COMMITTEE held at 7.45pm on Wednesday 21 June 2017 in the Council Offices, 72 Chapel Hill, Stansted Mountfitchet, Essex

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

ATTENDING: Cllr J O'Brien
Mrs R Clifford (Clerk)
Mr T Lloyd (Assistant to the Clerk)
4 member of the public

109 TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllrs M Caton and J Hudson.

110 TO RECEIVE DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST - none

111 TO RECEIVE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 10 MAY 2017

The minutes were approved at a Full Council meeting on Wednesday 24 May

112 MATTERS ARISING

- Network Rail have yet to respond to a request to cut back overhanging branches at Water Lane and the Black Bridge.
- Shrubbery in Cannons Mead needs to be cut back as soon as the nesting season finishes

113 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

- The lights at the skatepark are working, although minor glitches to resolve.
- The ROSPA inspections have taken place. There were no significant issues and Lee is actioning the minor issues that were identified.
- Lee has completed the Play Area Inspection course and has his exam next week.

114 TREE MATTERS

The Clerk reported that she is still awaiting approval to fell the willow overhanging the pond and to remove some self seeded fruit trees from the Bentfield Play Area. Cllr Dean reported that a lime tree on the Recreation Ground, between the Bowls Club and Lopyy's Hill, requires basal growth to be removed.

115 GARDENING CONTRACT

The Clerk reported that the vast majority of the planting has now been done and there had been a lot of positive feedback from residents. Members agreed that the beds were a huge improvement.

116 LITTER

The Clerk reported on problems with the red bags that are left in various locations for UDC to collect. A trade waste skip has been requested for the pick-up point close to St Mary's Church. The Clerk agreed to investigate the possibility of leaving the red bags on the High Lane verge near the sub-station or in the Lower Street car park rather than by The Dog and Duck.

Cllr Richards suggested that a litter pick should be scheduled for Spring of 2018 when it would be easier to access hedgerows and areas where brambles make clearing litter challenging. There was agreement that this was a sensible proposal.

117 TO CONSIDER MAKING A REQUEST TO UDC FOR AN ADDITIONAL CONSERVATION AREA IN THE VILLAGE

The Clerk reported that the NDP Green Spaces group had identified an area around St John's Road, Burnell's Way and Brewery Lane where the vistas and street scenes merited protection. Conservation area status would make it easier to ensure that any future development in that area was sympathetic and in keeping with the existing setting. Cllr Richards proposed the following

RECOMMENDATION that an application be made to UDC to designate the area including Burnell's Way, Brewery Lane, St John's Road, Crescent and Lane as a Conservation Area.

This was seconded by Cllr Kavanagh and unanimously agreed.

118 UPDATE ON BENTFIELD PLAY AREA

The Assistant to the Clerk reported that an application had been made for a UDC Community Grant to fund a basketball net and outdoor table tennis table for the Bentfield Play Area. This had been done because of the closing date for applications. There was a general consensus that these would be appropriate additions for the play area but if the funding bid was successful it was agreed that the whole village should be consulted through The Link before any new equipment was installed. If it was agreed not to proceed, the funding would not be claimed.

119 FOOTPATHS - TO RECEIVE A REPORT FROM MR STILES

The Clerk will forward the report to members

120 CEMETERY - INTERMENTS AND MEMORIALS

The Clerk reported that the interment of Thomas Emery was due to take place the following day. An additional inscription in the name of Ronald Howes had been approved on plot E15.

121 BENTFIELD POND

The Assistant to the Clerk reported that an ecologist from Affinity Water has identified an invasion of *Crassula Helmsi* (New Zealand Pygmyweed). This has the potential to cause significant environmental damage to the pond. The Government recommend that invasive plants should be

sprayed with an approved herbicide. The Battlement Trust has offered to spray the pond, free of charge, "from time to time" with an approved chemical to be applied by a trained operative. It was agreed that this offer should be accepted and the Battlement Trust thanked.

No volunteer working groups should do any pond clearing until the pond is declared free of the invasive species to avoid any risk of reading it to other water ways.

122 STANSTED IN BLOOM

CLlr Trundle reported that there had been 18 entries. Various options to enhance next year's competition were discussed. Details will be finalised well in advance of the competition entry period. Judging is due to take place this coming weekend with the presentation of prizes on 1 July. A write-up and photographs will be published in the next Link.

123 BIRCHANGER WOOD

Any reports received will be circulated to members.

Meeting closed 9.00 pm

DRAFT