

MINUTES of a meeting of the OPEN SPACES COMMITTEE held at 7.45pm on Wednesday 17 January 2018 in the Council Offices, 72 Chapel Hill, Stansted Mountfitchet, Essex

PRESENT: Cllr S Dunn (Chairman), Cllrs M Caton, 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)

TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr C Dean and Dist. Cllr T Farthing

376 TO RECEIVE DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST - none

377 TO RECEIVE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 8 NOVEMBER 2017

The minutes were approved at the Full Council meeting on Wednesday 22 November.

378 MATTERS ARISING - None.

379 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT - nothing to report

380 TREE MATTERS

The Clerk will make a further attempt to contact the tree surgeon about the willow tree at the pond and the self seeded trees in the Bentfield Play area which we have permission to take action on.

381 LITTER

It was agreed to hold a Litter Pick on 28 April. A suggestion that local schools and voluntary groups should be contacted in an effort to involve more people will be actioned by the office. Cllr Richards has identified Mill Hill and St John's Road as areas to be targeted.

382 FOOTPATHS

Mr Stiles's footpath report had a number of action points which the office will act on.

383 CEMETERY - INTERMENTS AND MEMORIALS

The Clerk reported the approval of a memorial on the grave of Dominic Donoghue and an additional inscription for Reginald Farmer.

384 TO REVIEW THE COUNCIL'S POLICY RELATING TO CEMETERY FEES

After a brief discussion Cllr Richards proposed the following:

RESOLUTION: The Council continues with its policy of aligning cemetery fees with those recommended by the Church of England.

This was seconded by Cllr Caton and agreed unanimously.

385 FORESTHALL PARK- ADOPTION OF PUBLIC OPEN SPACES

The Clerk reported that the solicitors had made some progress on the legalities of the handover. Our existing contractors have quoted for the gardening and grass cutting work and additional quotes are being sought. A suggestion that the contract should be for one year if a new business was awarded the contract or for two years if our existing contractors were successful with their bids got unanimous support. This would then bring the renewal dates for all gardening and grass cutting contracts in line.

386 ELMS FARM-ADOPTION OF PUBLIC OPEN SPACE- TO ESTABLISH A WORKING GROUP

The suggestion of establishing a working group to make recommendations on how the seven acres of open space should be utilised and managed was agreed. Cllr Kavanagh volunteered to be a member and it was suggested that Bill Stiles be co-opted. Cllr Rands was requested to seek further members through a social media appeal.

387 GARDENING - TO CONSIDER PROPOSALS FOR PLANTING IN 2018

The suggestions from the gardening contractor were broadly supported but some members had reservations about the planters that had been suggested. Options for other designs of planters will be researched and circulated for consideration. It was agreed to use the bulb budget to plant daffodil bulbs at Bentfield Upper Green, Church Road and on the Mountfitchet Estate.

388 TO CONSIDER A FORMAL REQUEST TO UDC TO TAKE OVER THE MAINTENANCE OF GRASSED AREAS ON THE MOUNTFITCHET ESTATE

After a discussion it was agreed that the grassed areas on the estate were below the standard of the rest of the village and that the Parish Council should take responsibility for the grass cutting in order to improve the situation. An agreement over transferring funds to cover the additional cost involved would be needed. Cllr Dunn proposed the following:

RESOLUTION: The Council make formal request to UDC to take over the maintenance of grassed areas on the Mountfitchet Estate.

This was seconded by Cllr Rands and agreed unanimously.

389 PARISH PATHS PARTNERSHIP

This subject had been raised by Cllr Dean. The Clerk explained that some years ago the Council had joined the PPP organised by Essex County Council. However, this was no longer active due to volunteers having moved away. If Cllr Dean wished to pursue this initiative, she could invited a representative from ECC to attend the next meeting. It was agreed that walking groups in the village be contacted to seek their support.

390 TO CONSIDER THE PURCHASRE OF A BASKETBALL RING FOR BENTFIELD PLAY AREA

The Clerk informed the meeting that Affinity Water had made a donation of £2,250 in recognition of the disruption they had caused at Bentfield End through road closures during the water mains upgrade. The Assistant Clerk requested that £1,250 be allocated to the basketball project. Cllr Richards proposed the following:

RESOLUTION: The Parish Council allocate £1,250 towards the cost of a basketball ring at Bentfield Green. This was seconded by Cllr Caton and passed unanimously.

391 STANSTED IN BLOOM

The following was agreed:

- Entry forms will go in the April Link
- Closing date for entries will be the end of July
- Judging will take place on
- The Presentation Day will be Saturday 8 September
- The Clerk will circulate details of the budget to Cllrs Dunn and Trundle.

392 BIRCHANGER WOOD

The next meeting is in February. Minutes will be forwarded by Cllr Dunn.

Meeting closed 9.05 pm