

MINUTES of a meeting of the OPEN SPACES COMMITTEE held at 7.45pm on Wednesday 10 April 2019 in the Council Offices, 72 Chapel Hill, Stansted Mountfitchet, Essex

PRESENT: Cllr S Dunn (Chairman), Cllrs A Barnes, M Caton, C Dean, J Kavanagh, F Richards and V Trundle

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

480 TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllr J Hudson, and for lateness from Cllr Trundle.

481 TO RECEIVE DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST - Cllr Dean as a resident for 10A

482 TO RECEIVE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 20 FEBRUARY 2019

RESOLVED to accept the minutes as a full and accurate record.

483 MATTERS ARISING

The Assistant to the Clerk reported on difficulties encountered in addressing the issues identified in the last ROSPA inspection. Wicksteed have promised to get back to us with a revised quote ASAP and hopefully an order can be confirmed and the work done in the very near future.

In response to Cllr Kavanagh, the Chairman reported that the Elms Farm working group had not met again but she would give a handover to the Clerk prior to leaving the Council.

484 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT - nothing to report

485 LITTER

The Assistant to the Clerk reported on a very successful Litter Pick. Residential and commercial areas are relatively litter free but some of the approach roads to the village still have issues that need to be addressed by the Highway Rangers.

The Stansted Mountpickers secured funding from Dist Cllr Goddard which is being used to purchase litter bins to be located along Church Road and at the High Lane/Cambridge Road junction.

486 FOOTPATHS

- (a) The report from Mr Stiles identified a number of issues all of which action is already being taken on. The report was generally positive and the vast majority of footpaths are in good order and being enjoyed by residents.

487 CEMETERY**a) INTERMENTS AND MEMORIALS**

The Clerk reported the interments of Edward Laird and Phyllis Hill. Memorials have been approved for Ian Mason and Graham Merton.

b) TO CONSIDER A LETTER FROM DANIEL ROBINSON & SONS

Various options were considered but it was agreed that the if any money was forthcoming it should be used to produce an accurate plan of all the burial plots in the cemetery, along with the pre-purchased plots.. If this is not feasible, then the Friends of St Mary's should be asked if they have any projects they need funding for.

488 TREE MATTERS - TO CONSIDER THE OFFER FROM STANSTED AIRPORT LTD FOR TREES

The Recreation Ground was identified as a possible location for the trees that Stansted Airport have offered to donate. However, if the gardening contractor did not consider this to be an appropriate location, given that the trees will require regular watering, then the Airport should be asked to offer them to local schools. It was acknowledged that the ideal tree planting time has passed.

489 GARDENING AND GRASS CUTTING:**A) TO CONSIDER A REQUEST FOR ADDITIONAL HEDGE PLANTING ON THE RECREATION GROUND**

It was agreed to ask Gareth Broad (gardening contractor) to advise on the most suitable form of hedging and to provide a quote. Cllr Dean commented that this is a very shady area and previous plantings of holly have failed.

UDC should be requested to improve the hedges around the green on the Mountfitchet estate.

The Clerk reported that the grass cutting contractor had commented that the grass around the High Lane/Cambridge Road corner has been left in such a mess by Bloor Homes (or their contractors) that he is unable to cut the grass because of the number of stones etc. The Clerk has raised the issue with Bloor direct. It was also noted that the daffodils have disappeared from the corner.

B) TO IDENTIFY BULB PLANTING LOCATIONS FOR AUTUMN 2019

The Recreation Ground, Church Road, High Lane and Walson Way were identified as sites for additional bulb planting. The gardening contractor will be asked to price each area and undertake planting as the budget allows.

490 WINDMILL FIELDS - TO REPORT FEEDBACK ON THE CONSULTATION UNDER MINUTE 404

The responses from residents were considered. After discussion it was agreed that the overriding consideration had to be road safety and therefore the Highways Sub-committee should be asked to consider how to take this forward.

491 REEVE ROAD PLAY AREAS - TO REVIEW THE CURRENT POSITION AND FUTURE ACTION

The Clerk reported that UDC had yet to respond to her request for an update. The location of the play equipment which was removed is unknown, as is its condition and UDC's proposals for reinstatement. Members were not happy at the lack of response and the Council Chairman stated that she would raise this direct with UDC.

492 ALLOTMENTS - TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE

The Assistant to the Clerk reported that the policy on Bee Keeping was still under review. A small number of tenants have not started work on their allocated plots and are therefore in contravention of the tenancy agreement. It was agreed that they should be given notice that their tenancy agreements would be terminated and the plots offered to people on the waiting list.

493 JORDON CLOSE - TO CONSIDER A REQUEST TO AMEND THE BOUNDARY LINE TO THE ORIGINAL

All members had considered the plans circulated with the agenda, indicating the very small area of land in question. The Clerk reported that she had been advised earlier today, by the Council's solicitor, that as the area had been designated as a public open space, its use could not be changed, either by sale or lease. Regrettably, it was agreed that the request from the resident would have to be refused.

494 STANSTED IN BLOOM

Cllrs Trundle and Dunn confirmed they were happy to be involved in this year's event despite the fact that they would no longer be councillors. The Chairman was confident that Gareth would be happy to be involved again and she would liaise with him. Trophies need to be returned ahead of the presentation day and again the Chairman agreed to contact last year's winners to remind them.

495 BIRCHANGER WOOD

Cllr O'Brien reported a potential road safety hazard from a tree that looks like it could fall onto the A120 road and he wondered what tree management scheme was in place at the Wood. The Clerk undertook to report this to the new secretary.

Meeting closed 8.38pm