

MINUTES of a meeting of the OPEN SPACES COMMITTEE held at 7.45pm on Wednesday 28th February 2018 in the Day Centre, 72 Chapel Hill, Stansted Mountfitchet, Essex

PRESENT Cllr S Dunn (Chairman), Cllrs M Caton, C Dean, J Hudson, J Kavanagh and F Richards

ATTENDING Cllrs P Jones, J O'Brien and D Wallace-Jarvis
District Cllr Alan Dean
Mrs R Clifford (Clerk)
2 members of the public

425 TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllr V Trundle and Trevor Lloyd - Assistant to the Clerk

426 TO RECEIVE DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST - None

427 TO RECEIVE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 21ST JUNE 2017

Approval of the minutes was deferred to enable the Clerk to check that the correct version was in the minute book.

428 MATTERS ARISING

Minute 387 - Trevor had circulated options for different planters following the last meeting and a discussion ensued about where these should be located. Cllr Richards commented that the planters in Bishops Stortford look suitable. The Clerk will discuss with Trevor and report back to the next meeting.

Minutes 390 - The Chairman reported that the application to Sport England for a basketball ring had been unsuccessful. Trevor had found an offer on two items of outdoor gym equipment as an alternative. It was generally agreed that these would be suitable for the Bentfield Play Area but that some public consultation should take place before a final decision was made. The Chairman would discuss this with Cllr Rands with a view to putting it on Social Media.

429 PARISH PATH PARTNERSHIP

The Chairman introduced Margaret Shaw, a member of the Elsenham Rights of Way Committee. Margaret explained the PPP initiative organised by Essex County Council and outlined the benefits. Following Margaret's interesting talk, it was agreed that the Parish Council would seek volunteers via Social Media to sign up to a PPP group and, if successful would then arrange a meeting with Shirley Anglin at Essex County Council. Cllr Dunn thanked Margaret and the members of the public for attending.

430 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT - None

431 TREE MATTERS

Cllr Jones asked all Council members to look at trees in their area and inform the office of any which they felt might be likely to obscure street lights. The Clerk reported that she had been notified of a member of the public who may be suitably qualified to act as the Council's Tree Warden. She would make enquiries and report back in due course.

432 LITTER

The Clerk confirmed that Churchills Fish and Chips had agreed to sponsor the litter pick on 28th April 2018. Cllr Richards reported that she could only attend until 11am and the Chairman agreed to take over at that time. It was suggested that Forest Hall School be asked to encourage pupils to collect litter from the grass verge outside the school. Cllr Dean suggested that Uttlesford be asked to undertake a litter pick on the main roads outside the village. Cllr Jones recorded the Council's appreciation of the actions taken by Lucy Loveridge and Lee Beresford to grit many pathways during the recent bout of cold weather.

433 FOOTPATHS

Mr Stiles' report had been circulated ahead of the meeting and the Clerk confirmed that Essex CC would be notified of any action required.

434 CEMETERY

The Clerk reported the interment of the ashes of Kathleen Hartnell

435 FORESTHALL PARK MAINTENANCE CONTRACTS

The Clerk informed members that she had received two quotations for the gardening and grass cutting contracts at Foresthall Park. A third company had not responded to the invitation to quote. After discussion it was unanimously

RESOLVED to award the grass cutting contract to MD Landscapes Ltd and the gardening contract to GWB Horticulture.

It was proposed by Cllr Richards and seconded by Cllr Kavanagh.

436 ELMS FARM - ESTABLISHMENT OF WORKING GROUP

The Chairman reported that she would join the Working Group along with Cllr Kavanagh and possibly a member of the public who had been in touch with Trevor. It was agreed to publicise this on the Council's Facebook page in the hope of obtaining further volunteers.

437 STANSTED IN BLOOM

The Chairman and Cllr Trundle have all arrangements for this year's competition well in hand.

438 BIRCHANGER WOOD

The minutes of the most recent meeting have been circulated.

Meeting closed at 9.00pm