

MINUTES of a meeting of the OPEN SPACES COMMITTEE held at 7.45pm on Wednesday 8 November 2017 in the Council Offices, 72 Chapel Hill, Stansted Mountfitchet, Essex

PRESENT: Cllr S Dunn (Chairman), Cllrs M Caton, J Hudson, J Kavanagh, R Rands and F Richards

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

297 TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllrs C Dean and V Trundle

298 TO RECEIVE DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST - none

299 TO RECEIVE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 18 OCTOBER 2017

RESOLVED to accept the minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 1 November

300 MATTERS ARISING

There is still no agreement with the Brook Road resident. The Clerk will work with Cllr O'Brien to try to bring the dispute to a resolution.

301 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT - nothing to report

302 TREE MATTERS

The Clerk will 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.

303 LITTER

The Clerk reported that the red bags that are deposited at the cemetery before being collected by UDC were attracting rats. Lee was working on a container that would be rodent proof.

304 FOOTPATHS- no report available

305 CEMETERY - INTERMENTS AND MEMORIALS

The Clerk had approved memorials for the graves of Mr Tyrrell and Mr Hunt.

306 FORESTHALL PARK-ADOPTION OF PUBLIC OPEN SPACES

The Clerk reported on the progress solicitors were making on the adoption process. A key issue is securing funds from the developers to put the open spaces in good order prior to the transfer of responsibility.

307 GARDENING - TO CONSIDER PROPOSALS FOR PLANTING IN 2018

Due to a family bereavement the gardening contractor had not been able to draft the proposals. Hopefully they will be available for the next meeting.

Bloor homes have donated the plants and the trees from the sales area they dismantled in High Lane. The plants have been added to the borders at the Memorial Gardens and it was agreed the trees should be planted at the corner of Crafton Green Road. Ray Woodcock and Cllrs Hudson and Wallace-Jarvis were thanked for their efforts in bringing this about.

308 TO CONSIDER THE DRAFT BUDGETS FOR 2018/19 & 2019/20 AND RECEIVE A REPORT ON THE CURRENT YEAR

The Clerk highlighted the 2% increase in salaries. There were no significant changes to other budgeted items.

Cllr Caton proposed the following

RECOMMENDATION that the draft budget be approved for consideration by the F&GP Committee at its next meeting.

This was seconded by Cllr Rands and unanimously agreed.

309 STANSTED IN BLOOM

It was agreed that Cllr Dunn would talk to Cllr Trundle about next year's event. The possibility of holding the event later in the year and changing the judging schedule were discussed. It was also suggested that the office should take responsibility for the promotion and administration of the event.

310 BIRCHANGER WOOD

Any correspondence will be forwarded to members.

Meeting closed 8.17 pm