

**Minutes of the meeting of the
PARKS, OPEN SPACES, CONSERVATION & FOOTPATHS COMMITTEE
held on Monday 3rd April 2017 at 8:35pm
in the Committee Room, The Freight House, Bradley Way, Rochford.**

Present: Chairman Mrs P Young, Cllr Mrs E Gadsdon, Cllr R Gardner, Cllr S May, Cllr R Patient, Cllr M Strubel and Cllr Mrs M Weir.

101. Apologies for non-attendance at meeting:

Cllr Mrs L Shaw (other appointment), Cllr D Weir (unwell).
Members **accepted** the apologies tendered.

102. Declarations of any:

- a) **Disclosable Pecuniary Interest;**
- b) **Other Pecuniary Interest; or**
- c) **Non-Pecuniary Interest**

on any matter on the agenda for 3rd April 2017:

None were declared.

103. Public Forum:

No Members of the public were present.

104. To approve the Minutes of the meeting held on 13th March 2017 and to approve the destruction of the notes in respect of that meeting:

The Minutes of the meeting were **approved** as a correct record and Members approved the destruction of the notes in respect of that meeting.

105. Action List Update – March 2017:

- 105.1 Members noted that the path improvement work in Spencers Park would commence in mid-May.
- 105.2 Members noted the resident who had been granted permission to plant a memorial tree in Spencers Park had now successfully planted the tree. The Clerk had since received a thank-you card which was read out to Members. Members agreed to close the item.
- 105.3 Members noted that research for the wording for the new signs in Magnolia Park was ongoing and that the Clerk would liaise with RDC on the matter.
- 105.4 Members noted budget provisions for 2017/18 had been made for the deteriorating wall post in Elizabeth Close Playground and that the posts would continue to be monitored accordingly.
- 105.5 Members noted the 2017/18 budget had included a contingency for the possible installation of CCTV, but that further investigations were necessary.
- 105.6 Members were reminded money had been allocated to the 2017/18 budget to allow the Adult Gym to be relocated within Magnolia Park. Members were reminded a site visit had been arranged for this purpose (Minute 105.12).

- 105.7 Members were advised the next Parish Parks meeting would occur on the 10th May 2017.
- 105.8 Members noted the Clerk was still waiting for the contractor's site visit and quote for the post reinstatement at the Thorpe Close entrance to Spencers Park bridle path.
- 105.9 Members noted that a Working Group for the Magnolia Park Management Plan had met and revisions of the plan had been agreed.
- 105.10 The Clerk informed Members KeyMed had been in touch and had asked for estimated costings for aquatic plants. It was agreed this would also be an area of review during the Magnolia Park visit.
- 105.11 Members were reminded that the Groundsman had requested that Glencroft Open Space no longer be a two-man site so he could access it alone for grass cutting purposes and this had been agreed at the previous Parks Committee meeting. Members agreed to close this item.
- 105.12 Members agreed a new Park site visit date of 26th April 2017 at 1:30pm to include Cllrs Mrs E Gadsdon, S May, M Strubel, Mrs M Weir, Mrs P Young, the Clerk and Groundsman. It was further agreed that due to the quantity of things to be reviewed, Members would only have time to look at Magnolia Park.
- 105.13 Members noted that the damaged section of fencing in Magnolia Park would be repaired and that budgetary consideration was required for possible future fencing replacement. It had been agreed at the previous meeting that this consideration would be made in the next budgeting round of 2018/19.

Members noted and **accepted** the Action Update List and **agreed** to the removal of the closed items.

106. Financial Report – March/Year End 2017:

Members noted that the Parks budget was underspent.

There were no questions and Members **accepted** the Financial Report.

107. Store Alarm line problems/updated Key Holder information required:

The Clerk explained to Members the ADT alarm at the Magnolia store had been malfunctioning, with multiple faults on the line which had triggered keyholder activation and, subsequently, had alerted the police on several of those occasions. As a result, the police had since sent a letter, informing Council of the withdrawal of the police response service.

The Clerk had spoken to both BT and ADT on multiple occasions and both had claimed the fault was not theirs. An ADT engineer had been out to inspect the equipment and no faults were found, which had incurred a call-out fee of £280. BT then reported a fault had been found on the line and it was cleared accordingly. However, the fault returned and blame was passed back to ADT. The Clerk was advised by BT to enquire with ADT if a STU component had been checked during their equipment inspection. However, attempts to get this information from the engineer who had carried out the inspection proved to be unsuccessful. The Clerk informed Members she would continue to pursue both ADT and BT to resolve the issues.

Members were informed that following the passing of Cllr V Leach, the main Keyholder, there were no other Keyholders in place. It was agreed that Cllr M

Strubel would consider the position following a site visit where he could assess the level of difficulty accessing the store.

108. Summary of Decisions:

- Magnolia Park visit rescheduled for the 26th April 2017 at 1:30pm to include Cllrs Mrs E Gadsdon, S May, M Strubel, Mrs M Weir and Mrs P Young, along with the Clerk and Groundsman.
- Clerk to continue to chase ADT and BT to resolve Magnolia store ADT alarm malfunction issue.
- Cllr M Strubel to consider being the ADT alarm keyholder following the Magnolia Park visit.

The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 8:55pm.

Chairman