

**Minutes of the meeting of the
PARKS, OPEN SPACES, CONSERVATION & FOOTPATHS COMMITTEE
held on Monday 4th July 2016 at 8:00pm
in the Committee Room, The Freight House, Bradley Way, Rochford.**

Present: Chairman Cllr Mrs Young, Cllr Mrs Corsham, Cllr R Gardner, Cllr V Leach, Cllr S May, Cllr R Patient, Cllr Mrs Shaw, Cllr M Strubel, Cllr D Weir and Cllr Mrs M Weir.

Also present: Cllr Mrs Gadsdon & Cllr K Binding

22. Apologies for non-attendance at meeting:

All Members were present.

23. Declarations of any:

a) **Disclosable Pecuniary Interest;**

b) **Other Pecuniary Interest; or**

c) **Non-Pecuniary Interest**

on any matter on the agenda for 4th July 2016:

None were declared.

24. Public Forum:

District Cllr Mrs J Gooding.

25. To approve the Minutes of the meeting held on 13th June 2016 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.

26. Action List Update – July 2016:

26.1 Members noted a date for the Parish Parks Forum was still due.

26.2 Members were referred to Agenda item 7 (Minute 28).

26.3 Members noted the Clerk was in the process of obtaining further quotes for the improvement works for the path in Spencers Park.

26.4 Members noted that quotes were accepted in the May meeting for Magnolia car park surface repairs and that work would progress when the playground project was complete.

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

27. Financial Report – June 2016:

The Chairman noted that Parks budget was on track. There were no questions and Members **accepted** the Financial Report.

28. Magnolia Park Children's Playground Project: verbal update

The Clerk distributed photos of the Magnolia Park Children's Playground which showed the work in progress. She explained there were three different contractors on site at varying times who were working on the play equipment installation, tarmacking and surfacing and she had made several site visits to oversee the work. She told Members the existing swings and picnic table had also been painted. There had been a few delays due to bad weather, but overall the project was

making good headway and she anticipated the playground would open within the week, with the Playground Inspector, David Bracey Inspections, on standby ready to carry out the post-installation inspection.

Members who had visited the playground were impressed with the work to-date. They discussed issues with some youths using the playground, but despite age restriction notices that were displayed, noted they did not deter some people who should not be using the equipment. The Clerk asked Members if they felt an opening ceremony should be arranged and all were in agreement that was a positive initiative which displayed commitment to working for the local community. They noted the ceremony should involve the Chairman of Essex County Council (ECC), or an appropriate Cabinet Member, as the project had been successfully funded through the ECC Community Initiative Fund (CIF). It was agreed the Clerk would start the process of arranging the ceremony accordingly.

29. Magnolia Pond:

a) Stillwater Management Company – Chairman Mrs Young informed Members that Cllr Mrs Weir, the Clerk and herself had met with Stillwater Management for a free initial appraisal which had proven to be informative. Stillwater had since issued two further quotes: £390 (excluding VAT) for a general site appraisal or £590 (excluding VAT) for a full site survey. Members **agreed** a full site survey was appropriate given the level of work required.

b) The Fen Group Ltd – Members noted Fen Group was due to make a site visit on 6th July 2016 which would incur a cost of £450 (excluding VAT) and agreed professional advice from another group was needed in order to make a balanced judgement about the works going forward.

30. Request from resident: to plant a memorial tree in Spencers Park:

Members agreed to the planting of a memorial tree provided the tree be planted in the autumn and the resident would accept they would have to maintain the tree for the first six months. Permission for a plaque was not agreed. The resident had indicated she would want to plant a Silver Birch and Members agreed that was a suitable choice provided it be a tree that had been partially established. The appropriate size and planting location would be decided in due course.

31. Items passed to office by District Cllr Julie Gooding:

a) Footpath 21 - Enquiry re. access gates to footpath: e-mail attached.

Cllr Mrs Gooding informed Members she would update Members as soon as she heard anything more. Members noted this was an Essex County Council issue but thanked Cllr Mrs Gooding for her involvement.

b) Graffiti in Magnolia carpark wall area: Cllr Julie Gooding has organised for the Payback Team to clear the graffiti. Date to be notified/HPC to provide buckets and detergent.

Members noted a date was to be determined.

32. Summary of Decisions:

- Clerk to contact ECC regarding securing a date for the Chairman/Cabinet Member to attend an Opening Ceremony for Magnolia Park Playground.
- Stillwater to proceed with Magnolia pond full site appraisal and Fen Group to visit on the 6th July to commence their appraisal.
- Memorial tree planting in Spencers approved by Members, subject to conditions.

The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 8:18pm

Chairman