

**Minutes of the meeting of the
PARKS, OPEN SPACES, CONSERVATION & FOOTPATHS COMMITTEE
held on Monday, 1st December 2014 at 7.30pm
in the Committee Room, The Freight House, Bradley Way, Rochford.**

Committee Present: Chairman Cllr Mrs P Young, Vice Chairman Cllr L Sampson, Cllr Mrs L Haskew, Cllr V Leach (ex-officio), Cllr R Patient, Cllr Mrs L Shaw, Cllr J Tutton, Cllr D Weir and Cllr Mrs M Weir.

Standing Order 6n. Resolution `that in view of the new Openness of Local Government Bodies Regulations made on 5th August 2014 SO 6n (Photographing, recording, broadcasting or transmitting the proceedings of a meeting by any means is not permitted without the Council's prior written consent) be suspended`.

79. Apologies for non-attendance at meeting:

Cllr Mrs Heath (Work). Members accepted the apologies tendered.

80. Declarations of any:

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

on any matter on the agenda for 1st December 2014:

None were declared.

81. Public Forum: None Present

82. To approve the Minutes of the meeting held on 10th November 2014 and to approve the destruction of the notes in respect of that meeting:

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 10th November 2014 were approved and Members agreed to the destruction of the meeting notes.

83. Action List Update - December 2014:

Members reviewed the Action List and updates were given as follows:-

83.1 Two Saturday Groups had been run for 'Friends of Magnolia'.

83.2 Illustrative artwork was being deferred to January.

83.3 Wildflower meadow works were in progress and it was **agreed** to remove the item from the list with a review in the Spring.

83.4 Cllr Mrs Weir raised concern over the different location of the trees David Wilson Homes had planted along the Brook. Cllr Mrs Young explained the trees could not be planted where the drainage systems were but they had been planted in collaboration with herself, the Clerk and the Groundsman. This was **accepted** and it was **agreed** to remove the item from the list.

83.5 Cllr Mrs Weir queried filling the bare areas along the bridle way in Spencers. Cllr Mrs Shaw reported she had been approached by the Woodland Trust and sought opinion on acquiring more free saplings for planting. It was **agreed** to apply for more and Cllr Mrs Shaw would complete the relevant forms.

83.6 The container had been moved and was in use in the Compound. Cllr Leach queried whether diesel was being stored in the container as he wished to

prevent any contamination to the salt and this was thought not to be the case. Item to be removed.

- 83.7 Re. the resident's tree next to Magnolia Store, Cllr Leach reported that the resident's professional Tree Feller had advised that the tree as a whole needed no further works at present but he would approach the residents about lopping the branch to enable the guttering works to commence.
- 83.8 The Clerk reported having received a letter from Cory Environmental that day notifying a proposed price increase from January 2015. The Clerk had disputed this as historically their prices increased every April and as a result they agreed to hold off the increase until April 2015. Members had concerns and discussed the service and alternative contractors. **It was agreed that the Clerk would research alternatives in the New Year starting with RDC's contractor and include a small increase in the budget.**
- 83.9 The Clerk reported that the Groundsman had got bogged down in Glencroft and was pulled out but most of the works there had now been completed with nothing heard from the resident who had made a complaint. It was **agreed** to remove the item.

Members noted the Action List Update.

84. Financial Report – November 2014:

The Clerk explained that receipt of the insurance cheque for the height barrier had skewed the figures slightly in the system as monies had not yet been paid out for the works to be done. There were no questions and Members **accepted** the Financial Report.

85. Quotes for Magnolia Children's Playground Surfacing:

Cllr Mrs Weir reported that Eddie Short had to climb over the Play Space fence in order to collect rubbish left from the weekend as the barrier was not keeping people out. She put forward a suggestion that Eddie Short could carry out a fix to the ground as a temporary measure. This was not taken forward. The Clerk advised that the funding bid would be assessed on the 8th December and once the outcome of the bid was known she would update Members. Cllr Mrs Young clarified that funding would need to be secured to proceed with any of the quotes. Cllr Mrs Shaw spoke in support of tarmacing and her opinion was noted in lieu of forthcoming absence. Cllr Sampson expressed concern that anyone was climbing into the area to remove rubbish; he felt strongly that a proper procedure ought to be followed and suggested asking the Groundsman to unlock the barrier for the purpose of rubbish collection once per week. Members discussed the quotes and variations and it was **agreed** to take a decision after the outcome of the funding bid was known.

86. Consider Drafts 1 & 2 of Parks Budget for 2015/16 and approve for recommendation either Draft 1 or 2 to Finance Committee:

Cllr Mrs Young moved from the Chair to accept Parks Budget Draft 2 for 2015/16 to go forward for recommendation to the Finance Committee and this was approved. Cllr Leach reminded Members that time had been made for budgets to be scrutinized and set accordingly and they would now go forward. Members agreed this was good management.

87. Summary of Decisions:

- Remove Wildflower Meadow from Action List with a review in the Spring.
- Remove DWH Site Visit from Action List.

- Agreed to obtain more free saplings from Woodland Trust - Cllr Mrs Shaw to complete relevant forms.
- Cllr Leach to approach residents re. lopping tree branch to enable Store guttering works to commence.
- Clerk to research alternative dog/litter bin contractors in the New Year starting with RDC's contractor.
- Agreed to remove complaint re. Glencroft from Action List.
- Await outcome of funding bid before decisions taken re. quotes for Magnolia Children's Playground surfacing.
- Accepted Parks Budget Draft 2 for 2015/16 for recommendation to Finance.

The meeting was closed at 8.05pm.

Chairman

Please recycle from within Full Council Papers for use at next Standing Committee.