

**Minutes of the meeting of the
PARKS, OPEN SPACES, CONSERVATION & FOOTPATHS COMMITTEE
held on Monday 12th June 2017 at 8:55pm
in the Committee Room, The Freight House, Bradley Way, Rochford.**

Present: Chairman Mrs P Young, Cllr R Gardner, Cllr S May, Cllr R Patient, Cllr Mrs L Shaw, Cllr M Strubel and Cllr D Weir & Mrs M Weir.

Also present: District Cllr J Gooding.

16. Apologies for non-attendance at meeting:

Cllr Mrs E Gadsdon had given apologies.
Members **received** the apologies tendered.

17. Declarations of any:

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

on any matter on the agenda for 12th June 2017:

No declarations were made relating to a), b) and c. Members also made no declarations relating to any change in their Register of Members' Interests.

18. Public Forum:

One member of the public was present.

19. To approve the Minutes of the meeting held on 15th May 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.

20. Action List Update – June 2017:

- 20.1 Members noted that the path improvement work in Spencers Park was underway and would last for approximately two weeks. Members raised concerns about the levels of earth that were against the wooden fencing. The Clerk advised Members that the grab lorries were scheduled to remove the loads the following day. It was estimated the work would continue for approximately another week, weather permitting, which was noted.
- 20.2 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.
- 20.3 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.
- 20.4 Members noted the 2017/18 budget had included a contingency for the possible CCTV, but that further investigations were necessary.

- 20.5 Members were reminded money had been allocated to the 2017/18 budget to allow the Adult Gym to be relocated within Magnolia Park and work would commence in the summer after a Health and Safety Sub-Committee meeting.
- 20.6 Members were advised the next Parish Parks meeting had been held on the 8th June 2017. Cllr Mrs M Weir had attended and had understood that Rayleigh Town Council had started an initiative where two young people were being employed to help engage with youths who used the parks. Members were unsure of how the initiative worked and agreed to wait for the minutes to obtain further detail.
- 20.7 The Clerk had contacted the contractor to request he go ahead with the installations of the posts along Spencers Park bridleway and was waiting to hear when work would commence.
- 20.8 Members noted that a Working Group for the Magnolia Park Management Plan had met and revisions of the plan had been agreed.
- 20.9 The Clerk informed Members KeyMed had been in touch and had asked for estimated costings for aquatic plants. Stillwater Management were due to visit the site on 21st June 2017 where the next phase of works would be discussed; it was agreed advice on the types of aquatic plants could be sought then.
- 20.10 Members noted that budgetary consideration was required for 2018/19 for possible future fencing replacement in Magnolia Park.
- 20.11 Members were reminded of the issues that had occurred with the ADT alarm at the Magnolia Park Store and that BT Redcare had finally fixed the issue on the 18th May. The addition of a Keyholder was still required.

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

21. Financial Report – May 2017:

Members noted that the Parks' budget was underspent at month two. There were no questions and Members **accepted** the Financial Report.

22. Email from resident adjoining Magnolia Park regarding damage to conifer trees:

Members noted the email from the resident which addressed an issue with some damaged trees on the perimeter of Magnolia Park. The Clerk informed Members she had also received a video which showed the damage to the resident's conifer trees, allegedly caused by the growth of a vine within Magnolia Park. The resident had also met with the Groundsman who she reported had assessed the trees and told her the vine had damaged her trees to the point that they would not recover. Members were concerned to learn the Groundsman had given the resident this information without having any expert tree qualifications and that he had not discussed his assessment with Council. Members also questioned why the issue hadn't been raised earlier and agreed that a site meeting with the resident was necessary, which would be organised by the Clerk in due course.

23. Request from landowner/resident adjacent to Glencroft Open Space for site visit regarding confirmation of boundary line:

Members agreed to attend a site visit with the resident to establish the boundary line between the resident's property and Glencroft Open Space which would be arranged by the Clerk. Members also discussed the recent fire within the open space and the resulting damage which had revealed debris within the undergrowth. This had also exposed some old barbed wire which had previously been concealed by large amounts of vegetation. Members agreed that was a matter for the Health and Safety Sub-Committee, who were due to meet imminently.

24. Request from Vic Leach's family regarding donation of a piece of play equipment in Magnolia Park playground in Vic's memory:

Members agreed to the donation of a piece of play equipment in principal, with the need to research a similar piece at a commercial level to ensure its suitability for Magnolia Playground. The Clerk reminded Members there had been an allocation in the 2017/18 budget to replace the small springy within the playground and that the proposed nest swing may be a suitable replacement, depending on its surfacing requirements.

Members agreed to defer the item in order to research the most suitable nest swing and its specific requirements.

25. Set date for Parks visit to Spencers Park and Glencroft Open Space:

Members agreed to meet on 26th July at 1:30pm to visit both Spencers Park and Glencroft Open Space.

26. Summary of Decisions:

- Members to attend site visit to meet resident on perimeter of Magnolia Park regarding conifer damage.
- Members to attend site visit at Glencroft Open Space to meet resident regarding establishment of boundary line.
- Research specifications on nest swing play equipment pieces for Magnolia Park playground
- Parks visit for both Spencers Park and Glencroft Open Space arranged for 26th July at 1:30pm.

The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9:20pm.

Chairman