

**Minutes of the meeting of the
PARKS, OPEN SPACES, CONSERVATION & FOOTPATHS COMMITTEE
held on Monday 13th February 2017 at 7:48pm
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.

77. Apologies for non-attendance at meeting:

Cllr V Leach, Cllr Mrs L Shaw & Cllr D Weir (all unwell) had given apologies. Members **accepted** the apologies tendered.

78. Declarations of any:

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

on any matter on the agenda for 13th February 2017:

None were declared.

79. Public Forum:

No Members of the public were present.

80. To approve the Minutes of the meeting held on 16th January 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.

81. Action List Update – February 2017:

- 81.1 Members noted that the path improvement work in Spencers Park would commence in April/May, dependent on ground conditions.
- 81.2 Members noted the resident who had been granted permission to plant a memorial tree in Spencers Park had deferred planting to allow for better ground conditions.
- 81.3 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.
- 81.4 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.
- 81.5 Members noted the 2017/18 budget had included a contingency for the possible installation of CCTV but that further investigations were necessary.
- 81.6 Members were reminded money had been allocated to the 2017/18 budget to allow the Adult Gym to be relocated within Magnolia Park. It was expected work would therefore commence after April 2017. Members were reminded a site visit was to take place in March, weather permitting.
- 81.7 Members noted the RDC Parish Parks Forum would occur on a quarterly basis. Members were referred to Agenda item 9 (Minute 85).

81.8 The Clerk re-confirmed with Members that they were happy to proceed to have just one post reinstated at the Thorpe Close entrance to Spencers Park bridle path. Members advised the Clerk to obtain quotes for two posts and agreed to have two reinstated if the price, which included installation, was not significantly higher.

81.9 Members noted that a Working Group for the Magnolia Park Management Plan which comprised Cllrs S May, Mrs M Weir and Mrs P Young had been established and that a meeting would occur that evening (13th February 2017).

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

82. Financial Report – January 2017:

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

83. Dog/Litter Bin Emptying Contract – Update.

Members were appalled to learn that the renewal contract price for emptying the Parish Council's dog and waste bins would mean an increase for Hawkwell Parish Council (HPC) of almost 200%. The Clerk informed Members she had been in contact with Rochford District Council's new ground maintenance company, Green Gateway Ltd who had advised her they were working at ways to bring the new contract price down, but had faced delays as the waste plant had been contaminated. Members were also extremely disappointed that no formal notification of the price increase had been sent to HPC, despite the Clerk making enquiries about price changes during budgeting for 2017/18 and that HPC's own recent investigations had revealed the news of the price hike.

Members were conscious that the existing dog/litter bin emptying contract would expire in April and that a contractor would need to be secured as a matter of priority. The Clerk advised Members she had obtained a quote from another company who had a Waste Carrier Licence for Offensive Waste in place and that the cost was significantly lower. It was agreed the matter would be revisited at the next available meeting to review the new price issued by Green Gateway and other contractors to secure a contract for the year ahead.

84. Email from Olympus KeyMed regarding Magnolia Pond Project:

Members were unclear what KeyMed's offer of assistance regarding the Magnolia Pond Project would involve. The Clerk informed Members she had responded to KeyMed to obtain further information and once she was in receipt of more information that would be relayed to Members for consideration.

85. RDC Parish Parks Forum

a) **Minutes from the Meeting held on 8th November 2016** - Members noted the Minutes.

b) **Feedback from the Meeting held on the 2nd February 2017** – The Clerk gave a verbal update to Members. She noted that the meeting had been well attended and it had provided attendees with a good opportunity to exchange information. She mentioned the Community Safety Accreditation Scheme, which was a joint scheme with Open Space Rangers which allowed them a level of access to report low level crime such as Anti-Social Behaviour to the

Police. A range of initiatives had also been discussed at the event, which were met with good intention, but Members raised some concerns about how successfully those would be implemented.

86. Approach from KAOS Youth Club to re-paint the walls in Magnolia Park carpark

Members noted that some work needed doing on the existing murals in Magnolia Park, referencing the concrete wall panels which had been removed and put back in a different order which had disjointed the artwork. Members felt the existing mural was right for Magnolia Park, while the proposed design by KAOS was an advertisement for the club and offered no connection to the surrounding area. It was therefore agreed it would not be suitable to have the proposed graffiti design of KAOS Youth Club on Magnolia Park's walls. Members agreed that if any artwork would be needed they would engage with the youth club for possible future participation.

87. Summary of Decisions:

- Clerk to obtain quotes for two barrier posts for either end of the bridle path along Spencers Park.
- Clerk to obtain new revised quote from Green Gateway Ltd regarding dog/litter bin emptying; the matter to be discussed and resolved at the next available meeting.
- Clerk to pass on additional information from KeyMed regarding possible assistance with the Magnolia Park pond project, once received.
- KAOS Youth Club Graffiti project for Magnolia Park carpark declined, but to engage with the club if any future artwork projects arise.

The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 20:13.

Chairman