

**Minutes of the meeting of the
PARKS, OPEN SPACES, CONSERVATION & FOOTPATHS COMMITTEE
held on Monday, 15th June 2015 at 7.30pm
in the Committee Room, The Freight House, Bradley Way, Rochford.**

Committee Present: Chairman Cllr Mrs P Young, Vice Chairman Cllr Mrs L Shaw, Cllr R Gardner, Cllr V Leach, Cllr R Patient, Cllr D Weir & Cllr Mrs M Weir

Also Present: District Cllr Mrs H Glynn

13. Apologies for non-attendance at meeting:

All Members were present.

14. Declarations of any:

a) **Disclosable Pecuniary Interest;**

b) **Other Pecuniary Interest; or**

c) **Non-Pecuniary Interest**

on any matter on the agenda for 15th June 2015:

None were declared.

15. Public Forum:

District Cllr Mrs Heather Glynn was welcomed and she advised in her capacity as Chairman of Rochford District Council, she hoped to attend meetings throughout the parishes in the District.

16. To approve the Minutes of the meeting held on 18th May 2015 and to approve the destruction of the notes in respect of that meeting:

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 18th May 2015 were approved and Members agreed to the destruction of the meeting notes.

17. Action List Update - June 2015:

Cllr Mrs Young went through the Action List item by item.

17.1 Cllr Mrs Young spoke of the visit to Barling Magna and fed back they were struggling to maintain the nature reserve and Council could offer them advice relating to future equipment requirements and applying for appropriate grants.

Members **noted** the Action List Update.

18. Financial Report – May 2015:

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

19. Elizabeth Close Playground Opening – Update:

Cllr Mrs Young referred to the Clerk's report. Members were asked to inform the Clerk of their attendance. The Clerk advised that the ECC Chairman, Cllr Hume would be cutting the ribbon and the Echo would be present with a photographer. Cllr Mrs Shaw volunteered to assist and provide some items and Cllr Mrs Glynn offered that if there was anything she could do to put there to mark the occasion she would be only too pleased.

Positioning of the ribbon was discussed in order to gain the best photographs and Members were content for this to be decided on the morning of the event.

The Clerk's report and press release was **accepted**.

20. Annual Playground & Adult Gym Inspection Reports:

Members reviewed the reports one by one.

Magnolia Park Play Area:

Cllr Mrs Young reported the bin had now been replaced.

Cllr Mrs Shaw volunteered to re-apply to Fords for £250 funding for a seat.

The Clerk reported in order to apply for £20K funding for wet pour, tarmacking the remainder of the play area and new pieces of play equipment, she would need to submit an expression of interest by the end of August and this was **accepted**.

Elizabeth Play Area:

Members discussed the gate and Cllr Mrs Young updated that the bin and seat had now been replaced.

Adult Gym:

Cllr Mrs Young explained the situation regarding bump stops and the position from the manufacture which was now on record by email.

The Clerk referred to the quote for resetting the pull down exerciser, she clarified that no budget had been allocated for it and after consideration to the risks it was **agreed** to monitor the situation.

21. Park Incidents (2) – reported by public:

21.1 Cllr Mrs Young advised that an article had appeared in the Echo about this. Public awareness that this was not a footpath was discussed and it was clarified that no speed limit existed on a bridleway. Notices were discussed. It was **agreed** to publish an article in the next Newsletter to allay confusion and cover the prime function of the bridleway. The Clerk reported she had already responded to the person involved to inform them that this was a bridleway.

21.2 This was discussed and the information was noted.

22. RDC/Parish Parks Forum – Minutes of meeting held on 22nd April 2015:

Noted.

23. Misuse of Parks Equipment by Public:

Cllr Mrs Young advised that some issues would be discussed under health & safety at General Purposes. Members discussed the reported incidents and some feedback was given from 'friendly' follow up with Members of the public.

Cllr Mrs Young was mindful that the Groundsman often had to deal with difficult situations regarding the public and recommended a point of contact system for the Groundsman during out of office hours and holidays/school holidays and this was considered. Caution was expressed in ensuring the role of Councillor and Clerk remained clear in that Councillors were not responsible for managing staff. Several Members expressed their willingness to be involved and Cllr Mrs Young said she would liaise with the Clerk and take this forward.

24. Latest form of 'Illegal High' discovered in local parks:

Cllr Mrs Shaw reported the gadgets were legal to buy for the correct reasons but unfortunately they were being used by youth for the wrong reasons. Many gadgets had been found in Rayleigh parks and she had found one in the footpath between The Bramleys and Rectory Road but they were not dangerous to pick up and dispose of. This was noted.

25. Summary of Decisions:

- Details for Elizabeth Close Playground Opening agreed.
- Cllr Mrs Shaw to re-apply to Fords for funding for a seat.
- Agreed for the Clerk to submit expression of interest for CIF funding (Magnolia Play area).
- Agreed to monitor the pull down exerciser.
- Agreed to publish Newsletter article re. public awareness of bridleway (Magnolia).
- Cllr Mrs Young to establish available contacts for holiday and out of office periods.

The meeting was closed at 8.13pm.



Chairman

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