

**Minutes of the meeting of the
PARKS, OPEN SPACES, CONSERVATION & FOOTPATHS COMMITTEE
held on Monday 16th January 2017 at 7:37pm
in the Committee Room, The Freight House, Bradley Way, Rochford.**

Present: Chairman Mrs P Young, Cllr Mrs E Gadsdon, Cllr R Gardner, Cllr V Leach, Cllr S May, Cllr R Patient, Cllr M Strubel and Cllr Mrs M Weir.

68. Apologies for non-attendance at meeting:

Cllr Mrs L Shaw (other appointment) & Cllr D Weir (unwell) had given apologies. Members **accepted** the apologies tendered.

69. Declarations of any:

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

on any matter on the agenda for 16th January 2017:

None were declared.

70. Public Forum:

No Members of the public were present.

71. To approve the Minutes of the meeting held on 5th December 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.

72. Action List Update – January 2017:

72.1 Members noted the Clerk had been successful in securing the full grant of £11k from the Essex County Council Communities Initiative Fund (CIF) and that work would commence in the new financial year.

72.2 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.

72.3 The Clerk informed Members that Stillwater Management had left the site and stage one of the process was complete, with vegetation cleared along the west bank. Members noted there had been no direct feedback to the office from residents, but were aware some residents had made positive comments about the work in passing conversations in and around the park. Members were also pleased to note that the ducks were still using the pond. Members agreed to close the item and reopen a new item when the second stage of works would be scheduled.

72.4 Members noted that research for the wording for the new signs in Magnolia Park was ongoing.

72.5 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.

- 64.6 The Clerk informed the ditch clearance work alongside Spencers Park had been completed over the Christmas/New Year period. The Clerk had been to visit the site and informed Members the contractors had done a good job, noting that water was now flowing through the ditch. Members agreed to close the item.
- 64.7 Members noted the 2017/18 budget had included a contingency for the possible installation of CCTV but that further investigations were necessary.
- 64.8 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. The Clerk suggested a site visit be arranged so Members could decide on a suitable relocation site within the park. Members suggested this should take place in March, weather permitting.
- 64.9 Members noted the RDC Parish Parks Forum would occur on a quarterly basis. Members noted the Minutes for the meeting held on the 8th November 2016 were still due to be received.

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

73. Financial Report – December 2016:

The Clerk informed Members that Parks was overspent at 82%.

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

74. Letter from resident regarding reinstatement of barrier posts along Spencers Park bridle path.

Members spent some time discussing the history of the Spencers Park bridle path and it was noted that the path had never been officially adopted as a bridleway/path, but was regarded as a 'permissive route' and that Hawkwell Parish Council were responsible for its maintenance. Members agreed it was necessary to reinstate the barrier posts at one end of the bridlepath to stop vehicles using it as a cut-through. It was noted the historical posts that were historically positioned allowed adequate width for horse riders and/or parents with pushchairs and that reinstatement should follow that design. Members discussed suitable material for the posts and agreed metal posts would be more suitable and hardwearing.

75. Set up Working Group to review the Magnolia Management Plan

Cllrs S May, Mrs M Weir and Mrs P Young volunteered to form a Working Group for the Magnolia Management Plan. The Clerk informed those who had volunteered that she would arrange a meeting in the office in due course.

76. Summary of Decisions:

- Clerk to arrange works to reinstate barrier posts at one end of the bridle path at Spencers Park.
- Working Group for review of Magnolia Management Plan established; Clerk to organise meeting in due course.

The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 19:49pm

Chairman