

**Minutes of the meeting of the
PARKS, OPEN SPACES, CONSERVATION & FOOTPATHS COMMITTEE
held on Monday, 19th January 2015 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 D Weir and Cllr Mrs M Weir.

Also Present: Cllr R Gardner

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`.

88. Presentation by Mr P Eastall re. BMX Track Proposal:

Mr Eastall did not show at the meeting. Cllr Leach recommended passing on the view, should Mr Eastall make contact again, that Council felt it could not pursue the matter from a practical point of view, under the premise that installation of any structure would require permissions and this was **agreed**.

89. Apologies for non-attendance at meeting:

Cllr Mrs A Heath (Work) and Cllr J Tutton (Prior Appointment). Members accepted the apologies tendered.

90. Declarations of any:

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

on any matter on the agenda for 19th January 2015:

None were declared.

91. Public Forum: None Present

92. To approve the Minutes of the meeting held on 1st December 2014 and to approve the destruction of the notes in respect of that meeting:

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 1st December 2014 were approved and Members agreed to the destruction of the meeting notes.

93. Action List Update - January 2015:

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

- 93.1 'Friends of Magnolia' had agreed to commence planting of whips and were considering painting the container in the compound green.
- 93.2 Cllr Leach reported that the residents were busy with major works to the front of their property at present but he didn't anticipate any problems regarding works to the Sycamore tree later on.
- 93.3 Re. Wild Wednesday Cllr Sampson had scheduled a meeting Wednesday week.

93.4 An information board about the history of Magnolia was agreed and Cllr Leach would contact Bill Royer for his knowledge of the brickfields. The Clerk suggested a Working Party may need to be set up as the deadline for the project was May 2015 and this was noted together with a request for the finished data to be posted on the website.

93.5 Agreed to remove item re. BMX track.

Members noted the Action List Update and agreed to remove completed items.

94. Financial Report – December 2014:

The Clerk reported expenditure over budget; there were no questions and Members **accepted** the Financial Report.

95. Magnolia Children’s Playground Surfacing – Verbal Update & Next Steps:

The Clerk distributed photos of works in progress and explained the seat near the railings would not be put back due its condition and location being a health & safety issue; an alternative bench and positioning would need to be looked at if Members so wished.

The Clerk had received information from District Cllr Mrs J McPherson that an application could be made for funding up to £1,500 to assist finishing the project. Cllr Mrs Young recommended tarmacing over the small strip of grass between the railings and the path in any future tarmacking plans. This was agreed.

96. Verbal Report from Elizabeth Close Playground Working Group:

Cllr Mrs Young and the Clerk went through the plan; some of the smaller apparatus had been cut out to bring the costs down to £28.5K and surfacing was discussed and agreed. The Clerk had forwarded the plan to the Play Area Inspector who, aside from making some minor recommendations, was happy with the proposal.

Members accepted the plan and quotation and the Clerk was instructed to take the project forward. The Clerk would arrange another site meeting with the supplier together with the Working Group and it was agreed that the project would be **advertised in the Newsletter** as one of the improvements in the Parish.

97. Collaboration with Rayleigh Town Council – Cllr L Sampson:

Cllr Sampson explained his report in detail and sought approval to pursue the matter by negotiation with Rayleigh Town Council and come back with a proposal. A lengthy debate ensued with strong, mixed views expressed; some accusatory. Many points were raised covering:-

- planning & logistics;
- use of machinery;
- manpower;
- effect on staff;
- impact on work schedules, priority works/management plan;
- missed revenue opportunity at Clements Gate.

Standing Orders were **suspended** for an informal discussion after which they were **reinstated**.

Cllr Patient moved to reject the request to pursue negotiations with Rayleigh Town Council which was seconded by Cllr Mrs Weir. After a show of hands the motion fell. Cllr Mrs Young announced negotiations would continue with Rayleigh Town Council and Cllrs Mr & Mrs Weir queried who would make the approach, insisting that it should be a matter for the Clerk. It was **resolved** that the

Clerk and nominated person or persons would progress the matter and bring back a proposal.

Cllr Patient wished to add that he was grateful to Cllr Sampson for the work he had done and his technical knowledge but he did not support this project.

98. Receive Magnolia Park Management Plan (For Discussion at February Meeting):

The Management Plan was issued to Members to read for discussion at the next meeting.

99. Review Illustrative Artwork:

Members appraised the artwork and many views were given. Cllr Sampson reported the brief, intended for Spencers originally, using existing posts. He advised that increasing the size to larger than A3 would require new posts which had not been budgeted for resulting in a review of costs. It was **agreed** to add a mix of species; birds, butterflies and moths on a near-to A3 size illustration which Cllr Sampson would bring back.

100. Summary of Decisions:

- Agreed not to pursue BMX track discussions & close item on Action list.
- Agreed to pursue 'information board' about the history of Magnolia – Cllr Leach to make contact with Bill Royer. Finished data to be posted on website.
- Elizabeth Close plan and quotation accepted - Clerk to take project forward and arrange site meeting. Improvements to be advertised in the Newsletter.
- Collaboration with Rayleigh Town Council to go ahead; Clerk and nominated person/s to take forward and bring back a proposal.
- Review Management Plan to be discussed at next meeting.
- Agreed to add a mix of species; birds, butterflies and moths on a near-to A3 size illustration - Cllr Sampson to bring back.

The meeting was closed at 8.35pm.

Chairman

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