

**Minutes of the meeting of the  
PARKS, OPEN SPACES, CONSERVATION & FOOTPATHS COMMITTEE  
held on Monday, 9<sup>th</sup> March 2015 at 7.30pm  
in the Committee Room, The Freight House, Bradley Way, Rochford.**

**Committee Present:** Cllr R Gardner, Cllr Mrs L Haskew, Cllr V Leach (ex-officio), Cllr R Patient, Cllr Mrs L Shaw, Cllr J Tutton and Cllr Mrs M Weir.

Cllr Patient proposed Cllr Leach take the Chair in the absence of the Committee Chair and Vice Chair which was seconded by Cllr Mrs Weir and this was **carried**.

*Standing Order 6n. Resolution `that in view of the new Openness of Local Government Bodies Regulations made on 5<sup>th</sup> 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`. **Agreed**.*

**116. Apologies for non-attendance at meeting:**

Cllr Mrs A Heath (Work), Cllr L Sampson (Unwell), Cllr D Weir (Unwell) and Cllr Mrs P Young (Holiday). Members accepted the apologies tendered.

**117. Declarations of any:**

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

**on any matter on the agenda for 9<sup>th</sup> March 2015:**

None were declared.

**118. Public Forum:**

None Present

**119. To approve the Minutes of the meeting held on 9<sup>th</sup> February and to approve the destruction of the notes in respect of that meeting:**

The Minutes of the meeting held on 9<sup>th</sup> February 2015 were approved and Members agreed to the destruction of the meeting notes.

**120. Action List Update - March 2015:**

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

- 120.1 The Clerk reported the Friends of Magnolia had been scarce during the winter and Cllr Mrs Weir recommended a meeting to resolve some discord which she reported. This was the first the Clerk had heard of it and it was **agreed** that a meeting would be scheduled.
- 120.2 The Groundsman had planted whips at Spencers and given some to the Church; Cllr Mrs Shaw advised that one of the conditions was planting within the grid reference supplied and the church fell within that area.
- 120.3 Cllr Leach reported that Aviva had created a community fund for up to £25K per project and he would liaise with the Clerk re. follow up.
- 120.4 Agreed to remove item re. signage for Parks.
- 120.5 Cllr Mrs Shaw had bid for a further 420 whips and the application had been approved but nothing would be heard until August. **Agreed** to remove.
- 120.6 Cllr Mrs Weir fed back from the Parish/Town Council Footpath Walks Meeting which was agreed to be revisited in the Summer.

- 120.7 The Clerk recommended engaging a contractor to cut back an overhanging tree on the boundary prior to Elizabeth Close Play Space Refurbishment taking place and an installation date was imminent. **Cllr Mrs Shaw moved that a Contractor be engaged to carry out works to the tree, Cllr Patient seconded and after a show of hands the motion was carried.**
- 120.8 The Clerk reported on works to the Store Guttering and the loan for the Store would complete at the end of the month.
- 120.9 **Agreed** to remove Magnolia Playground surfacing item which would come back at some point for the works to be done.
- Members **noted** the Action List Update and **agreed** to remove completed items.

**121. Financial Report – February 2015:**

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

**122. Bin Emptying Contract:**

Cllr Leach commended the Clerk for her efforts and went through the 3 quotes provided. These were discussed and a query was raised regarding approach to ISS directly instead of going through RDC. The Clerk relayed this had been suggested but she had not been able to get in touch with a Representative. She advised there was still a huge saving to be made with RDC and it would be far better to deal with someone local as opposed to a conglomerate. The length of the contract was discussed with Members favouring the quote from RDC. **Cllr Leach asked those Members in favour of cancelling the current contract and engaging RDC for bin emptying services and the motion was carried unanimously.**

**123. Ernest Doe payments query:**

Cllr Patient pointed out that equipment had been updated to nearly new over the years which should have been cost effective and he recommended monitoring. The Clerk was thanked for her report.

**124. Email from Patricia James re. horse riders using Hazelwood/barrier request – referred from Full Council:**

Cllr Leach asked for clarity and Cllr Mrs Weir explained the route being taken. The request was discussed and it **agreed** to forward it to ECC PROW being the relevant Authority. The Clerk was asked to reply to the resident and refer the enquiry to the PROW Officer.

**125. Summary of Decisions:**

- Meeting with Friends of Magnolia to be scheduled.
- Clerk to engage contractor for tree works re. Elizabeth Close Play Space.
- Approved cancellation of bin emptying contract and accepted quote from RDC.
- Clerk to write to resident and refer enquiry to PROW Officer.

The meeting was closed at 8pm.

Chairman

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