

**Minutes of the meeting of the
PARKS, OPEN SPACES, CONSERVATION & FOOTPATHS COMMITTEE
held on Monday 1st July 2019 at 8:48pm
in the Committee Room, The Freight House, Bradley Way, Rochford.**

Cllrs present: Chairman S May, R Gardner, Ms A Rees-Jones, T Manyika, R Patient, Mrs N Shaw, & Mrs M Weir.

12. Apologies for non-attendance at meeting:

Apologies were received from Cllr M Strubel. Members received the apologies tendered.

13. Declarations of any:

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

on any matter on the agenda for 1st July 2019:

Chairman S May made a Non-Pecuniary Interest (c) declaration in relation to Agenda item 7 (Minute 18) as he was related to the landowners. Cllr Ms A Rees-Jones declared a Non-Pecuniary Interest (c) in relation to item 19a) given she carried out voluntary work with the Dogs Trust.

14. Public Forum:

No members of the public were present.

15. To approve the Minutes of the meeting held on 20th May 2019 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.

16. Action List Update – July 2019:

- 16.1 The wall post in Elizabeth Close Playground would be continued to be monitored and Members were reminded there was a budget provision in the Ear Marked Reserves (EMRs).
- 16.2 Members noted there had been no updates regarding the outstanding issues with the pond.
- 16.3 Members were referred to Agenda item 7 (Minute 18).
- 16.4 There were no further updates regarding the boggy area surrounding Spencers Park.
- 16.5 Members noted tree works were continuing following the Tree Survey; only low priority works were due to be completed.
- 16.6 Members were referred to Agenda item 9. (Minute 20). Members agreed to close the item.
- 16.7 Members noted that the Clerk would inform the resident the offer of assistance in Magnolia Park was not required following Members' decision.
- 16.8 Members were referred to Agenda item 8. (Minute 19).

16.9 The Clerk had contacted the RDC Street Scene Officer to see if any dog fouling signs were available and had been informed six would send to the Clerk as they only had a few spares. Going forward, HPC would pay for any stickers.

16.10 The Clerk had sent a response to the resident who had cleared the Brook at Spencers Park. Cllr Mrs M Weir was adamant that HPC were responsible for the weir and gave an overview of the history behind it.

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

17. Financial Report - June 2019:

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

18. Transfer of Land Title within Magnolia Park by RDC- email with information and an update from RDC:

Members noted the information and that the new map and Title Deeds showed the triangular piece of land was no longer part of Magnolia Nature Reserve. It was noted RDC were advising a letter be drawn up, signed by both parties and added to the deed pack. It was noted the Clerk was not a legal expert in this matter and trust should be given to the Legal Department at RDC. Members were extremely disappointed RDC had never informed HPC of this change, especially given HPC were leaseholders of the land.

19. Residents' Dog 'Poop' Container Initiative in Magnolia Park:

a) Three suggested locations:

Members noted and agreed the locations. They noted an example of the container had been provided and that the Dogs Trust had given the first 500 bags for free. It was further noted HPC would possibly be approached for donations to go towards future bags. Members wondered if the initiative would mean the bins would need emptying more regularly. Cllr Mrs M Weir noted the bins at Magnolia Park had recently been overflowing and the smell had been awful in the hot weather. The Clerk reminded Members of the bin emptying schedule and that they were meant to be emptied every Friday and Tuesday but there had been recent issues where this had not been carried out and the office had received calls complaining about the overflowing bins. Cllr R Patient wondered if the matter should be escalated to the Leader of the Council at RDC, but it was agreed the Clerk would talk to the contractors to see what was happening. It was noted that dog waste could now be placed in any bin.

b) Members to choose one poster from those produced by pupils from St. Teresa's Catholic Primary School:

Members selected a winning poster which included two dogs and was themed 'Bag it and Bin it'. It was agreed the Clerk should write to the school to thank the children for the posters. It was noted the family running the initiative would give the winner a prize and a copy of the poster would be placed in the Magnolia car park display board and the Newsletter.

Cllr T Manyika pointed out that permission to use the winner's name be sought if using it in the Newsletter.

- c) **Permission sought to launch on Saturday 6th July at 10am; resident has asked if a couple of Members would like to attend:**

Members granted permission; Chairman S May and R Gardner would attend the launch.

20. Glencroft Open Space:

- a) **Footpath Project Update:**

Members noted the project had been completed. Chairman S May felt the paths looked good and were well compacted. The Clerk informed Members the contractor had used smaller chippings than previously used on the Spencers Park pathway but had been told these would bed down.

- b) **Land outside gate entrance (Acorn Meadow) from White Hart Lane – access query (email from landowner/resident attached):**

Members noted the information and that in order to access the top gate into Glencroft (White Hart Lane) it meant a cross-over on the resident's land. The resident had brought the matter to the Clerk's attention following an incident with some conifer chippings which had blocked access into Glencroft at that location. It was noted the resident was amiable and wanted to find a solution. It was agreed access rights needed to be sought and that legal advice from RDC would be advisable. It was also noted the Clerk had contacted the landowner for his recommendation on how to resolve the matter but had not yet received a reply.

- c) **Three new bins required due to poor state of existing bins. Suggest removing all four bins and replacing with three; two the same size as existing bins at top entrance but one larger capacity bin at the lower end:**

Members agreed to the suggestion as set out.

21. Anonymous letter received regarding Spencers Park:

Members noted it was Councils' policy to usually disregard anonymous letters but noted the comments therein. Members briefly discussed the items but agreed the information contained was not well-supported.

22. Summary of Decisions:

- Clerk to revert to RDC to confirm a letter will suffice regarding the change of ownership of a piece of land in Magnolia Nature Reserve.
- 'Dog Poop Container' initiative – locations for containers agreed; winning poster selected and Chairman S May and Cllr R Gardner to attend launch. Clerk to write to St. Teresa's Catholic Primary School to thank children for participation. Permission for use of winner's name to be sought for any future publication in the Newsletter.
- Clerk to contact Legal Department at RDC regarding Glencroft top gate access issue.
- New bins approved for Glencroft Open Space.

The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9:21pm.

Chairman