

**Minutes of the meeting of the
PARKS, OPEN SPACES, CONSERVATION & FOOTPATHS COMMITTEE
held on Monday 25th July 2022 at 8:48pm
in the Rochford Day Centre, 33a Back Lane, Rochford**

Cllrs present: Chairman S May, Mrs L Dalby, R Gardner, A MacPherson, Mrs L Massey, Mrs J Strubel, M Strubel, Mrs A Styles & M Vallance.

P 22/17 Apologies for non-attendance at meeting:

Cllrs R Patient & Mrs M Weir had given apologies.
Members received the apologies tendered.

P 22/18 Declarations of any:

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

on any matter on the agenda for 25th July 2022:

No declarations were made relating to a), b) and/or c). Members also made no declarations relating to any change in their Register of Members' Interests.

P 22/19 Public Forum:

There were no members of the public present.

P 22/20 To approve the Minutes of the meeting held on 16th May 2022 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.

P 22/21 Action List Update – July 2022:

- 22/21.1 There had been no changes to the wall at Elizabeth Close.
- 22/21.2 The high priority tree survey works had been carried out; other works were being carried out throughout the summer.
- 22/21.3 There were no updates regarding Friends of Hawkwell Parks (FoHP).
- 22/21.4 The Smart Water had been applied to Council's equipment at the store. The registration procedure was still to be completed.
- 22/21.5 There were no updates regarding the badger hole along the bridlepath within Magnolia Park Nature Reserve.
- 22/21.6 The Essex Amphibian and Reptile Group (EARG) Ecologist had indicated that once the new pond had been dug out, the Great Crested Newts (GCN) would use that as a haven. Therefore, the removal of fish from the main pond would not be necessary.
- 22/21.7 The Clerk had given the solicitors all the requested evidence for Church Strip. The application was now with Land Registry. Further information would be provided to Members once available.
- 22/21.8 The 'No Mow May' competition winners had received their prizes with thanks.
- 22/21.9 Works on the 'overwintering' pond had been agreed in principle. Members noted the e-mail from the Ecologist.
- 22/21.10 A Member had suggested the EARG Ecologist visit Spencers Park as it was thought GCN were present there. The Ecologist had visited the site and confirmed there were no populations of GCN at Spencers.

- 22/21.11 A new metal gate for Glencroft would be purchased shortly. Further details on the specification were awaited and whether the new gate could be affixed to the existing posts.
- 22/21.12 Members were referred to Agenda item 8 (Minute P 22/24).
- 22/21.13 Members were referred to Agenda item 8 (Minute P 22/24.)
- 22/21.14 The Clerk had responded to the resident who had written to Council about the importance of wildlife areas.
- 22/21.15 The Clerk had responded to the resident who had requested Council consider a skatepark in Magnolia Park.
- 22/21.16 Since the last report to the Parks Committee about the level of Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB)/Criminal damage in the parks, there had been more incidents which had extended to the wider parish. The matter had therefore been referred to Full Council.
It was **resolved** that Members noted and accepted the Action Update List and agreed to the removal of the closed items.

P 22/22 Financial Report – June 2022:

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

P 22/23 Consideration of replacement roundabout in Elizabeth Close Playground:

Members considered the Clerk's report and quotes received. A Member enquired about the design of the options as they felt it would be important that a replacement roundabout did not incur the same issues caused by ground movement. The Clerk informed Members that both options were designed with a central spindle which would enable free movement/spin of the roundabout and alleviate the issue with the current roundabout which spun on an underground track. Members agreed that the option for a wheelchair accessible roundabout was preferable to replace the one currently in situ. Cllr M Vallance proposed Option 1, this was seconded by Cllr Mrs L Dalby and was **agreed** by a show of hands. It was **resolved** that the Clerk contact the supplier to commence the project.

P 22/24 Quotes for new Adult Gym equipment and Basketball post/goal in Magnolia Park:

Members considered the Clerk's report and quotes received and the Clerk reminded Members that a budget for 2022-23 had been agreed for new pieces of equipment for Magnolia Park. Members compared the quotes in detail with some Members preferring Quote 1 as the same company who supplied the existing equipment would supply the new adult gym equipment. They also preferred the visual and sturdy look of their goal/basketball post, noting that the goal could be extended if required. Cllr M Vallance proposed Council accept Quote 1. This was seconded by Cllr Mrs A Styles and **agreed** by a show of hands. It was **resolved** that the Clerk contact the supplier to commence the project.

P 22/25 Magnolia Park wall – consideration of site visit to determine any further works:

Members discussed the wall and Cllr S May explained what was on the wall and what other artwork could possibly be included. Members suggested some options and it was agreed that a site visit would be prudent. It was **agreed** that the Chairman would email Members to organise a site visit.

P 22/26 Toddler swing in Magnolia Park playground:

The Chairman updated Members about the incident and the Clerk reported what action had been taken to date since the incident at the end of March. Despite the parent of the youth involved initially coming forward and offering to pay for a replacement swing, the parent had stopped responding to emails. The Clerk asked for direction from Council on how to proceed. Members expressed disappointment that the parent was not in contact at all despite several emails, especially as a replacement swing would ideally have been provided for residents by now. Members agreed that a Facebook post be issued again updating

residents on the matter in the hope that the parent would then contact Council to offer payment. If no response was received then a replacement swing would need to be purchased at Council's expense and a Member suggested sending the parent an invoice by post.

P 22/27 Correspondence from resident:

a) Fields in Trust UK Favourite Parks nomination; voting closes 18th August 2022:

Members noted the nomination and were encouraged to vote for Magnolia Park if they wished to do so.

P 22/28 Summary of Decisions:

- Clerk to action purchase of a 'wheelchair accessible 'roundabout for Elizabeth Close.
- Clerk to action purchase of new adult gym and goal/basketball post for Magnolia Park.
- Chairman to email members to arrange a site visit for the wall in Magnolia Park.
- Clerk to issue an update on Council's Facebook page about the toddler swing in Magnolia Park playground.

The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9:20pm.

Chairman