

**Minutes of the meeting of the  
PARKS, OPEN SPACES, CONSERVATION & FOOTPATHS COMMITTEE  
held on Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2023 at 8:09pm  
at the Rochford Day Centre, 33a Back Lane, Rochford**

**Cllrs present:** Chairman S May, Mrs L Dalby, R Gardner, T Hargrave, A MacPherson, Mrs L Massey, R Patient, Mrs J Strubel, M Strubel, Mrs A Styles, M Vallance, Mrs M Weir.

**P 23/74 Apologies for non-attendance at meeting:**

All Members were present.

**P 23/75 Declarations of any:**

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

**on any matter on the agenda for 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2023:**

Cllr Mrs L Massey declared an interest by virtue of Council's regular contractor being her spouse.

Members **accepted** the declarations made.

**P 23/76 Public Forum:**

There were no members of the public present.

**P 23/77 To approve the Minutes of the meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup> February 2023 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 23/78 Action List Update – April 2023:**

**23/78.1** There were no updates regarding Friends of Hawkwell Parks (FoHP).

**23/78.2** The diversion route for the bridlepath in Magnolia Nature Reserve was now in place. A Member enquired if people were moving the no-entry signs and barriers and the Clerk confirmed that had been a continual issue since they had been put in place.

**23/78.3** There were no updates regarding Council's adverse possession of Church Strip.

**23/78.4** The Ecologist discovered Great Crested Newt (GCN) eggs in the new pond and in the main pond at the Duck Island end. The Ecologist would be conducting a night-time survey and any interested Members were invited to join him. The community event at the pond was still to be arranged.

**23/78.5** Grating issues were still ongoing with the new accessible roundabout in Elizabeth Close playground; the contractor was in the process of trying to resolve them. All works were under warranty.

**23/78.6** Members had agreed the additional mural artwork. This would commence once the weather improved.

**23/78.7** A site visit with a representative from Essex Wildlife Trust (EWT) Wilder Villages Scheme had been set for Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> April 2023 at 11am in the Hawkwell Village Hall car park.

**23/78.8** The works for the removal of a car parking space by adding yellow chevrons to denote no parking in Magnolia car park would commence once the weather permitted.

**23/78.9** The footpath cracks in Glencroft Open Space had largely closed up.

**23/78.10** The safety surfacing repairs for the small springy in Elizabeth Close playground had been completed. Members agreed to close the item.

**23/78.11** The works to repair the pond edges would start imminently.

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

**P 23/79 Designs for the King's Coronation Commemoration raised flowerbed:**

Chairman S May tabled a further design at the meeting. Members discussed the designs and agreed the hexagon design was the most suitable design. Members further agreed the construction should use sleepers and be three high. A plaque would also be placed on the front; the Clerk had been unable to find an official plaque and asked for suggestions.

Members agreed the bed should have hardcore in the bottom and be filled with suitable topsoil. The Clerk requested assistance with the amount of soil required.

Cllr T Hargrave confirmed the planter would be planted with bulbs, pollinators and perennials. Members enquired who would maintain the bed and it was agreed Cllrs T Hargrave and Mrs L Dalby would maintain the bed.

Members further agreed to reach out to Man Shed to see if they would assist with the construction of the bed. The Clerk would progress the project following the decisions made.

**P 23/80 Essex Wildlife Trust Wilder Communities Programme of free workshops and webinars:**

The information was noted.

**P 23/81 Summary of Decisions:**

- Design for King's Coronation flowerbed agreed. Clerk to progress the matter. Members to assist with plaque ideas and materials order to allow Clerk to place the relevant orders.

The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 8:32pm.

Chairman