

**Minutes of the meeting of the
PARKS, OPEN SPACES, CONSERVATION & FOOTPATHS COMMITTEE
held on Monday 12th June 2023 at 8:15pm
in the Rochford Day Centre, 33a Back Lane, Rochford**

Cllrs present: Chairman S May, Mrs L Dalby, T Hargrave, A MacPherson, Mrs L Massey, R Patient & Mrs M Weir.

P 23/14 Apologies for non-attendance at meeting:

Apologies were received from Cllr R Gardner, Mrs J Strubel and M Strubel.
Members received the apologies tendered.

P 23/15 Declarations of any:

a) Disclosable Pecuniary Interest;

b) Other Registrable Interest; or

on any matter on the agenda for 12th June 2023:

Cllr Mrs L Massey declared an interest by virtue that her spouse was a regular contractor for Council.

Members **accepted** the declarations made.

P 23/16 Public Forum:

No members of the public were present.

P 23/17 To approve the Minutes of the meeting held on 22nd May 2023 and to approve the destruction of the notes in respect of that meeting:

The Minutes of the meeting held on the 22nd May 2023 were **approved** as a correct record and Members approved the destruction of the notes in respect of that meeting.

P 23/18 Financial Report – May 2023:

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

P 23/19 Action List Update – June 2023:

23/19.1 There were no updates regarding Friends of Hawkwell Parks (FoHP).

23/19.2 The diversion route due to the badger holes on the bridlepath in Magnolia Nature Reserve was in place. There were no further updates.

23/19.3 There were no updates regarding Council's adverse possession of Church Strip.

23/19.4 There were no updates regarding the overwintering pond relating to Great Crested Newts (GCNs)

23/19.5 There was a possibility that the roundabout at Elizabeth Close would have to be reinstalled. The contractor had informed the Clerk there would be a meeting at their head office on Wednesday 14th June to discuss the matter.

23/19.6 The Chair of Parks would progress the wall mural that week, weather permitting.

23/19.7 Members were referred to Agenda item 8 (Minute P 23/21).

23/19.8 The works to add no parking chevrons in Magnolia car park had been carried out.

23/19.9 Members were referred to Agenda item 7 (Minute P 23/20).

23/19.10 The wood chippings in Magnolia Park's heap were not suitable for use. The regular contractor would use the chippings from the tree removal works required in Spencers and use those chippings directly on site. The works would be monitored for effectiveness. It was **resolved** that Members noted and accepted the Action Update List and agreed to the removal of the closed items.

P 23/20 Implementation of a watering system at Magnolia store for effective watering of the King's Coronation planter and Queen's Jubilee trees:

Members noted the Clerk's report. Members discussed the idea of adding a gate to the park side fence of the Magnolia store compound, noting this would ease access issues for the waterers, and would also assist the regular contractor when carrying out park works. It was **agreed** the Clerk would investigate the cost of adding a suitable gate.

Members also **agreed** it would be prudent to look at options for harvesting rainwater during the wet months as well as having access to an outside tap. Members agreed to purchase one IBC and additional required parts to get the rainwater harvesting system up and running, with the potential to purchase additional ones at a later date. A Member advised that a 60m hose on a reel would be adequate for watering purposes. The Clerk would also obtain a quote for the cost of an outside tap.

More Members were required to assist Cllr T Hargrave with the watering of the planter. It was also noted the Queen's Jubilee trees would require further watering over the next few years. Cllrs Mrs L Dalby and S May volunteered to assist and would liaise with each other accordingly.

P 23/21 Essex Wildlife Trust (EWT) – follow up from site visits:

a) Email from Danielle Carbott regarding River Champions information and the Environment Agency: Members noted the email. The Clerk would fill in the information on behalf of Cllr T Hargrave who had been nominated Council's River Champion. The Clerk informed Members she had contacted the Environment Agency and was awaiting a response.

b) Essex Fish Migration Roadmap: The roadmap was noted.

P 23/22 Summary of Decisions:

- Clerk to investigate costs of adding an access gate to Magnolia Park compound, park side.
- Clerk to order IBC and relevant parts, including hose.
- Clerk to investigate costs of adding an outside tap at Magnolia Park compound.
- Cllrs Mrs L Dalby and S May to assist Cllr T Hargrave with watering.

The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 8:30pm.

Chairman