

**Minutes of the meeting of the
PARKS, OPEN SPACES, CONSERVATION & FOOTPATHS COMMITTEE
held on Monday 8th April 2024 at 7:57pm
in the Rochford Day Centre, 33a Back Lane, Rochford**

Cllrs present: Chairman S May, L Fane, R Gardner, T Hargrave, A MacPherson, Mrs L Massey, Mrs J Strubel, M Strubel & Mrs M Weir.

Also present: One member of the public.

P 24/86 Apologies for non-attendance at meeting:

Members received apologies from Cllr Mrs L Dalby.

P 24/87 Declarations of any:

a) Disclosable Pecuniary Interest;

b) Other Registrable Interest; or

on any matter on the agenda for 8th April 2024:

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

P 24/88 Public Forum:

One member of the public was present.

P 24/89 To approve the Minutes of the meeting held on 11th March 2024 and to approve the destruction of the notes in respect of that meeting:

The Minutes of the meeting held on the 11th March 2024 were **approved** as a correct record and Members approved the destruction of the notes in respect of that meeting.

P 24/90 Financial Report – March 2024:

The Clerk reported that the Parks budget was 86% spent at year end, with a few adjustments due. It was noted there had been an underspend in the adult gym and play areas budgets. There were no questions and Members **accepted** the Financial Report.

P 24/91 Action List update – April 2024:

24/91.1 The Clerk arranged a visit to the Church Strip for Thursday 11th April at 1:00pm. Cllrs L Fane, Mrs J Strubel, M Strubel, S May, A MacPherson, and Mrs M Weir would be in attendance.

24/91.2 The wall mural would be completed within the year.

24/91.3 The Spencer's Brook work would be carried out on 17th June 2024; Cllr T Hargrave would be on site that day to oversee works. The Clerk informed Members the contact at Essex Wildlife Trust (EWT) had left the company and Council had been notified the Team Wilder programmes were now closed. The Clerk would find out more information and revert to Members.

24/91.4 The Clerk continued to monitor the situation regarding the water leak discharge into Magnolia Nature Reserve. There were no further updates as the excessive rain had meant it was too difficult to establish if there was also a leak. A Member suggested testing the water for the presence of chlorine to establish if it was a leak from the household pipe.

24/91.5 The battery trimmer had been ordered and collected.

24/91.6 The Fire Risk Assessment (FRA) for Magnolia Store had been carried out. The Clerk was now awaiting the report. Some fire signage was required and this was on order. It was noted the emergency lighting would need to be added to the annual PAT. A Member enquired about whether the FRA company had commented on Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs); the Clerk

reported there had been no mention of those. A Member offered to measure the VOCs, if required.

24/91.7 The Bye-Law signage for Magnolia Park was underway.

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

P 24/92 Magnolia Store compound – considering concreting the outside area for hardstanding (approx. 60 sqm):

Members raised concerns about the potential water run off should concrete be used for the hardstanding and questioned the environmental impact of using certain materials. A Member suggested using block paving, but it was noted heavy goods vehicles would use the space and therefore the bricks could move. Members also suggested using gravel reinforcement grids. A Member suggested that a gulley could be formed should concrete be used, which would run off into the park.

It was agreed the Clerk investigate further options and revert to Members.

P 24/93 Summary of decisions:

- Church Strip visit organised for 11th April at 1pm. Cllrs L Fane, Mrs J Strubel, Mr Strubel, S May, A MacPherson and Mrs M Weir to attend, along with the Clerk.
- Clerk to find out more information about the closure of the Team Wilder programmes and revert to Members.
- Clerk to investigate other options for hardstanding in Magnolia compound.

The Chair declared the meeting closed at 8:14pm

Chairman