

**Minutes of the meeting of the
PARKS, OPEN SPACES, CONSERVATION & FOOTPATHS COMMITTEE
held on Monday 10th February 2025 at 8:28pm
in the Rochford Day Centre, 33a Back Lane, Rochford**

Cllrs present: Vice Chair T Hargrave, L Fane, Mrs L Massey, S May, & Mrs M Weir.

Also present: District Cllr I Wilson and two members of the public.

P 25/50 Apologies for non-attendance at meeting:

Apologies were received from Chair A MacPherson & Cllr R Gardner.

P 25/51 Declarations of any:

a) Disclosable Pecuniary Interest;

b) Other Registrable Interest; or

on any matter on the agenda for 10th February 2025:

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

P 25/52 Public Forum:

District Cllr I Wilson was present along with two members of the public.

P 25/53 To approve the Minutes of the meeting held on 11th November 2024 and to approve the destruction of the notes in respect of that meeting:

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

P 25/54 Financial Report – January 2025:

The Clerk reported that the budget for Parks was 86% spent but that included £7k which would be vired from the General Reserves at year end; therefore, the budget was 77% spent. There were no questions and Members **accepted** the Financial Report.

P 25/55 Action List Update – February 2025:

25/55.1 Chippings had been laid on the bridlepath which had greatly improved its usability. Members enquired about the next steps in relation to the Church Ship ownership. The Clerk reminded Members that Council was still awaiting to hear from the church about whether they would be interested in eventually acquiring the land for burial purposes. The Clerk would chase the church for a response. A Member enquired about a tree which had appeared in a hedgerow gap by Church Strip; it was noted it had been planted by Council's contractor and was from the collection of young trees being established at the Magnolia store.

25/55.2 The Clerk had recontacted RDC about the water leak into the Nature Reserve and had received no response. Members expressed disappointment and concern about the apparent lack of action in relation to the leak, which was a health and safety concern. District Cllr I Wilson volunteered to assist Council and requested information be shared with him so he could try and chase the matter too; the Clerk would action this and continue to chase RDC.

25/55.3 The concrete surfacing works would be carried out before the end of the financial year.

25/55.4 The items in the Eco-Audit follow-up report had been referred to the General Purposes Committee to work through.

- 25/55.5 The Clerk was awaiting two estimates from contractors and it was hoped works to repair the Lincoln Road fencing would be completed before the end of the financial year.
- 25/55.6 Partnership working with Hullbridge Parish Council (HBPC) had been agreed and would be carried out in the Spring; HBPC would be cutting a grass area and collecting the cuttings in line with the Eco-Audit recommendations.
- 25/55.7 Roundabout repair works had been carried out at Elizabeth Close. It was agreed to close the item.
- 25/55.8 The Spindle tree had been planted in area within the Magnolia field, by the roses enroute to the bridlepath entrance. The Chestnut tree would be planted in due course.
It was **resolved** that Members noted and accepted the Action Update List and agreed to the removal of the closed items.

P 25/56 Receive the Annual Playground Inspection reports:

Members noted the reports and that all issues were very low/low risk. The Clerk informed Members surfacing works in Magnolia playground would likely need to be carried out, with the area slippery and looking tired. Other works to address some of the low-risk issues would be carried out, as necessary.

P 25/57 Summary of decisions:

- Clerk to chase St Mary's Church for a response regarding Church Strip.
- Clerk to continue to chase RDC regarding the water leak at Lincoln Road; details to be passed to District Cllr I Wilson who volunteered to assist to try to get more information.
- Action works to address some of the low risk issues in line with the recommendations in the annual playground inspection reports.

The Chair declared the meeting closed at 8:41pm.

Chair