

**Minutes of the meeting of the
PARKS, OPEN SPACES, CONSERVATION & FOOTPATHS COMMITTEE
held on Monday 14th July 2025 at 8:36pm
in the Rochford Day Centre, 33a Back Lane, Rochford**

Cllrs present: Chair A MacPherson, L Fane, R Gardner, T Hargrave, Mrs L Massey, S May, Miss M Ward & Mrs M Weir.

Also present: Four members of the public.

P 25/13 Apologies for non-attendance at meeting:

All members were present.

P 25/14 Declarations of any:

a) Disclosable Pecuniary Interest;

b) Other Registrable Interest; or

on any matter on the agenda for 14th July 2025:

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

Members **accepted** the declarations made.

P 25/15 Public Forum:

Four members of the public were present. No questions were raised.

P 25/16 To approve the Minutes of the meeting held on 19th May 2025 and to approve the destruction of the notes in respect of that meeting:

The Minutes of the meeting held on the 19th May 2025 were **approved** as a correct record and Members approved the destruction of the notes in respect of that meeting.

P 25/17 Financial Report – June 2025:

The Clerk reported the Parks budget was on target at 25%.

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

P 25/18 Action List Update – July 2025:

25/18.1 Members were referred to Agenda item 7 (Minute F25/19).

25/18.2 There still had been no response from Rochford District Council (RDC) regarding the water leak into Magnolia Nature Reserve. The area was still foul smelling according to recent reports. Members reiterated that they felt the matter had been going on too long and that action was required. Cllr L Fane had some details of a possible contact that may be able to assist; he would send the details to the Clerk. Members advised the Clerk contact Anglian Water and to re-contact the Environment Agency (EA).

25/18.3 The playground surfacing repairs had been completed.

25/18.4 The car park signs had arrived and were due to be installed.

25/18.5 The Clerk had chased the solar panel installer for a quote to clean the solar panels. No reply had been received. The Clerk had yet to find an alternative. A Member advised the Clerk that any window cleaner that used ionised water could carry out the cleaning.

25/18.6 The lining for the basketball court had been completed and had received positive feedback.

25/18.7 The office had received confirmation from the Police Rural Engagement Team that wildlife cameras were being considered.

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

P 25/19 Church Strop Adverse Possession (AP):

The Chair read out the Clerk's paper which was noted. Members discussed the matter and were reminded the Church did not want the land; the initial purpose of AP had been to take the land to pass on to the Church for a future burial site. Members **agreed** it would still be prudent to apply for AP to protect the land from any future development.

It was **agreed** the Clerk notify the solicitor of Council's intention to re-apply for AP. The Clerk would also obtain quotes for fencing off the land. It was also noted the costs would need to be factored into the next budget and that evidence for the upkeep of the land would need to be documented. Members briefly discussed what the land could be used for but it was noted that would be for Council in 12 years to decide, should the AP be successful. It was further noted a clause/condition would need to be made somehow that meant the land could not be sold for future development.

P 25/20 Spencers Park paths – consider re-surfacing (Cllr A MacPherson):

Members noted some of the paths were damaged and cracked and some sections were no longer walkable. Members suggested widening the paths. The Clerk would obtain the necessary quotes and bring them back for budgeting.

P 25/21 Magnolia car park:

a) Tree works required: It was **agreed** the Clerk arrange for works under delegated powers.

b) Consider re-lining of car park spaces/chevrons: The Clerk would obtain the necessary quotes and bring back to the September meeting.

Cllr T Hargrave left the meeting at 9:07pm

P 25/22 Three-year tree survey of Council's stock – two quotes received:

Members noted the quotes.

Cllr T Hargrave returned to the meeting at 9:09pm

Members **agreed** to accept quote two at a cost of £975.

P 25/23 Summary of Decisions:

- Clerk to contact AW regarding the water leak at Magnolia Road. Cllr L Fane to pass on details of a contact that may be able to assist. Clerk to also re-contact EA.
- Council to re-apply for AP of Church Strip. Clerk to notify solicitors and obtain quotes for fencing off the land. Matter to be included in 2026-27 budget.
- Clerk to obtain quotes for new paths in Spencers.
- Magnolia car park tree works to be arranged by Clerk.
- Clerk to obtain quotes for relining of car park.
- Tree survey company accepted at a cost of £975.

The Chair declared the meeting closed at 9:10pm.

Chair