

**Minutes of the meeting of the  
PARKS, OPEN SPACES, CONSERVATION & FOOTPATHS COMMITTEE  
held on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> October 2025 at 7:00pm  
in the Rochford Day Centre, 33a Back Lane, Rochford**

**Cllrs present:** Chair A MacPherson, L Fane, T Hargrave, Mrs L Massey (from 7:04pm), S May, Miss M Ward & Mrs M Weir.

**Also present:** Cllrs C Morris, J Dunkley, Mrs A Petrescu and one member of the public.

**P 25/36 Apologies for non-attendance at meeting:**

No apologies were received.

**P 25/37 Declarations of any:**

**a) Disclosable Pecuniary Interest;**

**b) Other Registrable Interest; or**

**on any matter on the agenda for 13<sup>th</sup> October 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 25/38 Public Forum:**

One member of the public was present and enquired about a post seen on Facebook regarding a lack of water in a pond they thought to be Magnolia Park pond. After a brief discussion, it was noted the pond was within Cherry Orchard Jubilee Country Park and therefore fell under Rochford District Council's (RDC) remit.

*Cllr Mrs L Massey entered the meeting at 7:04pm and made her declaration at P25/37.*

**P 25/39 To approve the Minutes of the meeting held on 8<sup>th</sup> September 2025 and to approve the destruction of the notes in respect of that meeting:**

The Minutes of the meeting held on the 8<sup>th</sup> September 2025 were **approved** as a correct record, and Members approved the destruction of the notes in respect of that meeting.

**P 25/40 Financial Report – September 2025:**

The Clerk reported the budget was on target.

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

**P 25/41 Action List Update – October 2025:**

**25/41.1** Quotes for the fencing work at Church Strip were still due but the exact length and area of the fence line was still to be determined, along with the type of fencing. Members had yet to conduct a site visit. All Members indicated they would like to attend.

**25/41.2** The Clerk had no time to follow up the matter regarding the water leak into Magnolia Nature Reserve. A Member had visited the area and reported the land was dry. It was **agreed** that the matter continue to be monitored.

**25/41.3** The car park closure signs had been installed.

**25/41.4** The solar panels had been cleaned at the Magnolia Park store.

**25/41.5** The Magnolia car park lining works had been completed.

- 25/41.6 The tree survey works were being conducted. Some works would require a specialised climbing tree contractor as Councils regular contractor was unable to carry out the works at height. Quotes would be obtained once the scope of works were determined.
- 25/41.7 The Clerk had contacted the company who undertook the recent tree survey for Council for a full survey quote for Magnolia Nature Reserve and Park. A quote was due.
- 25/41.8 A site visit to Spencers Park had been carried out with two contractors to look at the path resurfacing works. One quote was still due; the Clerk would re-chase the missing quote.
- 25/41.9 Members were referred to Agenda item 8 (Minute P 25/43).
- 25/41.10 Members had been tasked to carry out research for a Spencers Park sign. A discussion ensued about a generalised internet search; two Members had contradictory views on the accuracy of the information found via their searches. A Member reported the space had once been a tomato nursery. It was agreed that the office source some photos of Spencers Park. Members were advised to work together and those with knowledge of the history of Spencers Park were to liaise with Cllr Miss M Ward who would be compiling the write-up for the sign. It was also recommended a local historian be contacted for assistance.
- 25/41.11 A quote for concrete pads for Spencers Park benches was due.
- 25/41.12 Members were referred to Agenda item 7b (Minute P 25/41.12).
- 25/41.13 Members had conducted a site visit to look at ways of deterring dogs from urinating on the Adult Gym equipment. An idea of erecting a fence around the equipment had been proposed. It was **agreed** not to pursue this idea given there had been no public complaints, costs would be high and there would have been grass cutting/maintenance issues. It was further noted that dogs often entered the fenced children's playground, despite not being permitted to do so. It was **resolved** that Members noted and accepted the Action Update List and agreed to the removal of the closed items.

**P 25/42 Magnolia Park works:**

**a) Footpath repair works required adjacent to the main pond and boggy area beyond – quotes awaited:**

Members noted quotes from two contractors were still due.

**b) Magnolia playground games lining:**

Cllr Mrs L Massey updated Members following a site visit with the contractor. Pictures of the proposed games were presented to Members along with a quote for the works.

It was **agreed** to engage Reliant Leisure Ltd to carry out four lined games designs in Magnolia Playground.

**P 25/43 Magnolia Nature Reserve – badger issues:**

Members noted the Clerk's report and that Essex County Council (ECC) and RDC had indicated they were both prepared to collaborate with Council to try and rectify the issue of the eroding Bridlepath following damage caused by the badgers digging their sett. Rectification was likely to mean a diversionary path through the Nature Reserve. It was further noted the Clerk would provide an update following a further internal meeting at ECC.

**P 25/44 Correspondence from a resident regarding damage from trees in Spencers Park:**

Members noted the letter and advised the Clerk contact Council's insurance company in the first instance to obtain professional advice; this step would be relayed to the resident accordingly.

**P 25/45 Summary of Decisions:**

- Members still to arrange site visit to Church Strip.
- Clerk to chase missing quotes for Spencers pathway resurfacing works.
- Quotes for tree survey works to be obtained once scope of works is confirmed.

- Water leak issue at Magnolia Nature Reserve to be continued to be monitored.
- Members to work together to obtain correct information on the history of Spencers Park; all information to be sent to Cllr Miss M Ward. Local historian also to be contacted. Office to source photographs.
- Proposal to fence off Adult Gym equipment declined.
- Magnolia playground lining games approved; four designs to be created in the children's playground.
- Clerk to update Members regarding BR45 bridlepath diversion proposal following internal meeting at ECC.
- Clerk to contact Council's insurance company regarding alleged tree damage to a property. Clerk to update resident with this step.

The Chair declared the meeting closed at 7:40pm.

Chair