

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE OPEN SPACES COMMITTEE HELD ON
THURSDAY 25 SEPTEMBER 2014
IN THE TOWN COUNCILOFFICE AT 7.30 PM

Cllrs Present: Mr Richard Chandler (Chairman) In attendance: Clerk, Mrs Rebecca Knifton
Mr Alan Copus
Mr Chris Kemp
Mr Tony Sneller
Mrs Maggie South
Mr John Robbins

Prior to the meeting, it was agreed that Cllr South would join the Committee as an invitee until the end of the Council year.

Formal co-option onto the Committee will take place at the next meeting of Council.

OS/9/14 Apologies
None

OS/10/14 Declarations of interest
None

OS/11/14 Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 3 July 2014.

Proposed by Cllr Chandler and seconded by Cllr Robbins.

NOTED that the minutes were a true record of the meeting.

RECOMMENDED that the minutes are approved by Council.

OS/12/14 Matters Arising

(a) New Bus Shelter – Tillington Road. **NOTED.**

(b) Bin in Sylvia Beaufoy car park. **ACTION:** The Clerk to chase up the email sent to CDC.

(c) Asset Register. **NOTED** that the document is ongoing. PTC had thought it owned 6 lights but it is clear that there should be more. SSE are due to undertake an upgrading schedule and it was further confirmed that a condition report will be sought.

ACTION: Clerk to arrange a meeting with SSE.

ACTION: Cllr Kemp to contact the firm he had sought regarding repairs.

NOTED that a volunteer from the Committee was needed to obtain quotes for all items on the asset register due to the Clerk's workload.

It was clear to the Committee that the need to raise the precept even just for emergency repairs was imperative.

AGREED that the asset register should have an extra column to include life expectancy and condition criteria. A colour coding system was suggested, i.e. red/amber/green.

The 'round the hills' footpath was described as being in a state and Cllr Chris Kemp mentioned that this should be added to the 'wish list'. It was **NOTED** that although it is on Leconfield land, the footpath is public and a proper footpath should be installed..

ACTION: The Clerk to contact WSCC Footpaths and Rights of Way.

ACTION: The Clerk to find out whether the grant from ARC can be used for this purpose.

(d) An opportunity for Cllrs to discuss any other matters arising not already included on the agenda. Cllr Sneller confirmed that he had spoken to the Fair and someone has repaired the damage to Hampers Green.

The issue of the key to the gate of Hampers Green was raised and it was **NOTED** that the current lock was not working properly.

ACTION: It was **AGREED** that Cllr Chandler would contact the Estate with a view to replacing the existing lock with a combination lock.

ACTION: Cllr Chandler to source a tree trunk to block the other entrance to the Green.

NOTED that bridleway 649 was closed. Nick Scott from Rights of Way had been contacted.

ACTION: Cllr Robbins to speak to Naldrett regarding the strimming around the bus shelters.

OS/13/14 Play Areas

(a) Rosemary Gardens – Discussions regarding funding for the urgent repairs to the play equipment took place. **NOTED** that the cost would be vast and the replacement safety surfaces would amount to more than £11k alone. This matter is ongoing until funding can be sourced.

NOTED that the Clerk and the Chairman were due to meet with CDC to see if there is any s106 money available.

Further **NOTED** that the meeting will include a progress enquiry and action plan regarding the installation of the skatepark.

NOTED that Tim has the replacement seat for the playground.

ACTION: Cllr Sneller to progress with the totem pole and to obtain 3 quotes.

Other factors to consider are:

- What is the best sort of substructure;
- No point in replacing the wetpour until the pole is in – the wetpour will have a 12 year life span;
- A project for Easter 2015 and to include the children of the local Junior School;
- Speak to Wickstead regarding the ROSPA Report.

(b) Hampers Common – the email from Lisa Cole was **NOTED** and it was discussed and it was **AGREED** that the Council should be working in partnership with the residents and the Leconfield Estate. Goal posts were also considered.

ACTION: The Clerk to contact Wickstead in order to look at packages for refurbishment.

ACTION: Cllr Chandler to deal with the ditch.

ACTION: To consider Operation Watershed for funding the clearance.

NOTED that the rubbish bin on the Common keeps getting filled by people emptying their cars. **NOTED** that CDC will take the contract to clear them but there will be a monthly cost. **AGREED** that this will be monitored.

NOTED that the current dog bins are adequate.

OS/14/14 Allotments Audit

NOTED that the Clerk and Cllr Robbins are still undertaking the audit review and will report back to the Committee when completed.

OS/15/14 Budget 2015-2016

A full review will be taken to the Finance and General Purposes Committee.

OS/16/14 To consider other items at the Chairman's discretion

ACTION: Strimming of the path on Rosemary Lane. Cllr Robbins to contact Naldrett for a quote.

ACTION: Leconfield Cottages. Cllr Chandler to contact Neil Humphries of the Estate to request strimming and to discuss the cutting down of the trees opposite the Stonemasons.

NOTED that a second quote has been received for the flagpole at a cost of £75.85 for the pole + £95 with a vandal proof pully.

Proposed by Cllr Kemp and seconded by Cllr Sneller.

RECOMMENDED that the purchase be taken to Council for approval.

NOTED that the Virginia Creeper at George House needs cutting back.

ACTION: Cllr Sneller to make enquiries.

NOTED that the paving slab outside NatWest is uneven and dangerous.

ACTION: Cllr Kemp to deal.

Meeting closed – 9.10pm

Chairman Signed..... Dated.....