

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE OPEN SPACES COMMITTEE HELD ON
THURSDAY 12 MARCH 2015
IN THE TOWN COUNCIL OFFICE AT 7.30 PM

Cllrs Present: Mr Chris Kemp (Acting Chairman) Apologies: Mr Richard Chandler
Mr John Robbins Mr Tony Sneller
Mr Roger Hanauer Mrs Maggie South
Mr Alan Copus

Attending: Town Clerk, Mrs Rebecca Knifton
Mr David Burden

Members of the Public x 2

As the Chairman was absent, Cllr Robbins proposed that Cllr Kemp stand in as acting Chairman. Seconded by Cllr Copus.

RESOLVED that Cllr Kemp Chairs the meeting.

Cllr Kemp wished to vary the order of the agenda and started with agenda item 5a, co-option of Cllr Hanauer onto the Committee.

OS/19/15 Matters arising that are not already included in this agenda

Co-option of Cllr Hanauer on to the Committee. Proposed by Cllr Robbins and seconded by Cllr Copus.

All in favour.

RESOLVED that Cllr Hanauer is co-opted onto the Committee

OS/20/15 Representations by the public

Mr Tom Moore asked if he could address the Committee.

He wished to re-iterate the comments he raised at the February meeting and stated that he believed that the previous minutes did not represent what he had said at the meeting in January and that he felt some items had been misinterpreted from the February minutes.

He said that the ex-Clerk Don Simpson had confirmed that there had been contracts in the office and that Cllr Chandler had wanted this minuted.

He drew attention to the statement made in the February minutes that he and Gordon Allan had 'considered themselves as Members of the Committee' when they had been invited to sit at the table. He wanted it noted that they had been asked to join the table by the Chairman.

He asked what the role of the Clerk was as he needed clarity.

Cllr Kemp confirmed that when the Clerk had left the meeting due to the breach of the Code of Conduct, Cllr South had assumed the role of Clerk. The minutes had been passed to Cllr Copus to check whether there were any differences between what had been scribed and what had been typed.

Mr Moore explained that he was concerned that a false record has been minuted.

He then asked if the meeting was quorate. The Clerk confirmed that 3 or a 1/3 of the members, whichever is the greatest constitutes a quorum. He then asked if the minutes from the previous meeting could be agreed. Cllr Kemp confirmed that he and his wife had gone through the minutes and cross referenced them with the notes and there had been no anomalies. He asked whether Mr Allan was inferring an accusation that his wife was lying. Mr Allan claimed he never said that.

Cllr Kemp brought the agenda item to a close.

OS/21/15 Apologies for absence

Apologies had been received from Cllrs Mr Richard Chandler and Mrs Maggie South.

OS/22/15 Declarations of interest

There were no declarations of Pecuniary and non-Pecuniary interests in relation to any items included on the agenda for this meeting in accordance with **THE LOCALISM ACT 2011** and the **Relevant Authorities (Disclosable Pecuniary Interests) Regulations 2012** Noted.

OS/23/15 Minutes of the meetings held on Thursday 15 January 2015 and Thursday 12 February.

AGREED to be deferred for this meeting.

OS/24/15 Matters arising that are not already included in this agenda

(a) Co-option of Cllr Hanauer on to the Committee – **NOTED** as minute OS/19/15.

(b) Skatepark – **NOTED** that Cllr Hanauer had worked hard on this project with very little support. **NOTED** that Cllr Sneller is yet to progress the matter. Further **NOTED** that Cllr Hanauer had made various attempts to ask Cllr Sneller to meet to talk about steps going forward but to date, Cllr Hanauer has not received a response.

ACTION: Clerk to contact CDC regarding the time limit for when the fund must be used.

NOTED that Cllr Sneller had been appointed to ‘champion’ this task but due to inactivity, has put PTC behind by a year.

Cllr Hanauer informed members that he is liaising with two young skaters and that PTC have got the Police supporting the project.

NOTED that there is a spare piece of land opposite the Youth Club in the Park.

AGREED that the trustees should be approached and then to call a meeting with Lord Egremont.

(c) De-fib – Cllr Sneller was not present to report.

(d) Footpath around the hills – **NOTED** that there had been an article in the Observer reporting on the great work PTC’s Working Party had achieved.

NOTED that the dog litter signs will be on the next agenda.

NOTED that the school had had a competition for the best sign and that the Chairman had gone to their award ceremony.

(e) War memorial - **NOTED** that the Chairman had contacted 3 contractors and will be taking the quotes to the Finance and General Purposes Committee.

(f) Hanging baskets and brackets – **ACTION:** Cllr Kemp to place the order through Spriggs. There are at least 10 to 15 further brackets to put up.

OS/25/15 Play Areas

(a) Rosemary Gardens – **NOTED** that a local beneficiary has offered a contribution of between £2k and £2.5k towards the refurbishment.

ACTION: The Clerk to follow up on the quotes.

Brief Spec: new flooring, 2 x new slides, a free structure such as a totem pole, new swings or simply swing seats.

(b) Hampers Common – **NOTED** that the ditching had been cleared and the Operation Watershed money had been approved. Cllr Chandler wishes to donate this money back to PTC for the refurbishment of the park.

- Bus shelter – **ACTION:** Cllr Kemp to write a spec.
- Play park – Brief Spec: 2 x goal posts, 1 x zip wire + tower + slide unit, trim trail
- Phone box – **ACTION:** Cllr Sneller to draft a letter to residents.
- Litter bins – **ACTION:** The Clerk to find a contact at Martlett Homes and get them to clear the rubbish.

OS/26/15 Allotments

AGREED that Cllr Robbins will purchase the labels. Cllr Robbins to undertake an imminent inspection.

Meeting closed – 9.10pm

Signed.....
Chairman

Dated.....