

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE OPEN SPACES COMMITTEE HELD ON  
TUESDAY 9 JUNE 2015  
IN THE TOWN COUNCIL OFFICE AT 7 PM

Cllrs Present: Mr Chris Kemp  
Mr David Burden  
Mr Roger Hanauer  
Mr Michael Peet  
Mr Tony Sneller  
Mrs Maggie South

Apologies: Mrs Carry Smith  
Ms Samantha Spriggs

Attending: Town Clerk, Mrs Rebecca Knifton  
Members of the Public x 2

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OS/27/15 Election of Chairman

Cllr Kemp proposed Cllr Hanauer as Chairman of the Committee. Seconded by Cllr South.

The Clerk asked if there were any other nominations.

Cllr Sneller declared that he would stand as Chairman if anyone would propose and second him. There was no proposer.

**RESOLVED** that Cllr Hanauer is Chairman of the Open Spaces Committee.

OS/28/15 Election of Vice Chairman

Cllr Kemp proposed Cllr Burden as Vice Chairman of the Committee. Seconded by Cllr Hanauer.

There were no other nominations.

**RESOLVED** that Cllr Burden is Vice Chairman of the Open Spaces Committee.

OS/29/15 Representations by the public

Mr Tom Moore and Mr Gordon Allan asked the Chairman if they could address the Committee.

Again, they wished the Committee to note that they believed that there were errors in the minutes of the January, February and March 2015 Open Spaces minutes as follows:

January – Mr Allan believed that a full list of allotment holders had existed in the office. He stated that he had ‘come into possession of’ the Town Council’s confidential list of allotment holders names, addresses etc. **\*\* Secretarial after note: Please note for legal purposes that this list had not been supplied by the Town Council.** He went on to state that ex-Cllr, Richard Chandler had confirmed that the list had existed.

Cllr Kemp informed Messrs Allan and Moore that Richard Chandler could never have truthfully made comment on this issue as he had not once been in the office to look at any of the historic allotment information.

Cllr Sneller stated to Cllr Kemp that he had never been invited to the Town Council Offices to look through the paperwork. Cllr Kemp informed Cllr Sneller that as a Cllr, he had been welcome at any time to look at what had been left by the previous Clerk. Cllr Kemp went on to say that Cllr Sneller had passed several ill-informed comments about the allotment paperwork at public meetings without actually ever coming into the office and looking at the files.

Cllr Hanauer stated that although there had been a list of plot holders left behind, due to no record of payments received and subsequently other incomplete information, PTC could not have known what information was, or was not correct.

Mr Allan referred to Richard Chandler's comments in the February minutes. Cllr South interjected and reminded members as well as Messrs Allan and Moore that they were referring to a meeting that had happened in February. She wished for Messrs Allan and Moore to know that PTC had acknowledged their comments and that everyone should simply accept any differences and move on. She **NOTED** that all the potential of the Committee was getting lost as the focus of every meeting commenced with re-evaluating the minutes. Cllr Hanauer agreed and requested that the Committee approve and sign the minutes.

Cllr Kemp stated that the rewording requests from Mr Moore did not affect the facts within the minutes. Any amendment to the minutes can only be on a point of fact and it appeared that Messrs Moore and Allan were making an argument about principal. Cllr Hanauer stated that the quibbling should stop and the matter be cleared.

Mr Moore continued to state what he thought were other errors such as OS/2/15: the minutes have not been amended as he had requested in the February meeting. OS/11/15: Messrs Moore and Allan had only taken part in the meeting because Richard Chandler had invited them to join the table.

He wished to refute minute OS/20/15 as he claimed he has never spoken to Don Simpson about the matter and that this should be struck out.

Cllr Kemp stated that it would appear that Messrs Moore and Allan were keeping the Committee at the same place and not allowing it to do its work. Cllr Hanauer stated that he was exasperated that again, so much time was being wasted by these public representations. Mr Moore argued that he believed that there were a number of false statements.

Cllr Hanauer declared that everyone would have to agree to disagree.

Cllr South asked Mr Moore whether he was now happy with his allotment contract. Mr Moore stated that he was not happy with the process and complained about the underpayment of postage on his contract delivered by Royal Mail. He stated that Cllrs are signing off minutes dishonestly.

The Clerk stated that PTC had been acknowledging Mr Moore's amendments for 6 months now and that this must end.

Cllr Hanauer defended Cllr South's minutes on OS/11/15 when she had taken over minuting the meeting in February when the Clerk had been verbally attacked by Messrs Moore and Allan, alongside Cllr Sneller and had requested to leave. He explained that the notes were cross-referenced with the typed minutes and that no errors or omissions had been made.

Cllr Sneller stated that if the Clerk had written the minutes correctly then 'we wouldn't be here'. Cllr Kemp reminded Cllr Sneller that the minutes belong to the Clerk and then to the Council when they are approved and that members of the public should not dictate amendments.

Cllr Sneller stated that he strongly objected to the statement in the February minutes that he shouted at the Clerk and that the way he behaved at the meeting had been no less than what happens at the House of Commons.

Cllr Kemp informed Cllr Sneller that his behavior at the meeting had breached PTC's Code of Conduct and that he could not speak to an employee in that manner.

Cllr Hanauer who had also been present at the meeting in February stated that the Clerk had simply made a valid point regarding the overrunning of the agenda item 'public representation'. Cllr Hanauer went on to inform Cllr Sneller that he had been totally inappropriate and had aggressively raised his voice to the Clerk. The Clerk minuting that she was 'shouted at' is her perception of Cllr Sneller's actions. Cllr Hanauer stated that the only reason Cllr Sneller wanted the minutes to be amended was that they showed him in a bad light. Cllr Sneller said that 'shouting' puts a different connotation into the meaning of the minutes. Cllr Hanauer said that although he has sympathy for Cllr Sneller, the word shouting should not be changed. Cllr Sneller stated that he had challenged the Clerk at the February meeting as the 3 minute public speaking timescale had merely been a guideline. Cllr Hanauer stated that unfortunately, Cllr Sneller had been somewhat abrasive which had resulted in the Clerk leaving the meeting very upset.

Cllr Hanauer agreed that these minutes should record that Cllr Sneller disagrees with the February minutes.

Cllr Peet asked Cllr Sneller, Mr Moore and Mr Allan whether everything was now resolved. Cllr Kemp acknowledged that the postage on the allotment contracts had been insufficient but that plot holders were being reimbursed.

Cllr Kemp asked the Clerk whether any other plot holders had been aggrieved by the contracts and the Clerk confirmed that she had not received any complaints bar the complaint from Mr Moore.

Cllr Hanauer then referred to the letter PTC had written to the previous Clerk to convey the Council's sympathy for any discomfort she might have felt over the forensic audit. The letter had been intended to move on amicably and to start with a clean slate. Cllr South confirmed that the whole process had been a learning curve for all involved.

Cllr Sneller referred to the events of the past year as 'a challenge' and that some Cllrs had been reluctant to move on.

Cllr Hanauer asked Messrs Moore and Allan if they were now happy to move on. Mr Moore stated that if the January minutes had recorded what he had said properly then he would not have had to keep correcting them.

Cllr South proposed that all 3 sets of minutes are agreed and signed en mass. Seconded by Cllr Burden. **RECOMMENDED** that all 3 sets of minutes are a true record of the meetings. The minutes were duly signed.

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Cllr Sneller then muttered a derogatory statement about the Clerk. Cllr Burden stood up and raised a formal **OBJECTION** to the Chairman. A further **OBJECTION** was then made by Cllr Kemp regarding Cllr Sneller's outburst.

Cllr Hanauer brought Cllr Sneller to **ORDER**.

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OS/30/15      Apologies for absence  
Apologies had been received from Cllrs Spriggs and Smith.

OS/31/15      Declarations of interest  
Cllr Peet declared a non-Pecuniary interest as Chairman of the PBA. There were no further declarations of Pecuniary or 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/32/15 Minutes of the meetings held on Thursday 15 January 2015, Thursday 12 February and Thursday 12 March 2015.

**NOTED** that the minutes had been approved in OS/29/15.

OS/33/15 Matters arising that are not already included in this agenda

Cllr Kemp reported as Chairman of the Council and proposed that each section should move forward with a specific Councillor to lead.

(a) Bus Shelter – **NOTED** that the 2 shelters at Hampers Common need repair. Cllr Kemp has written a spec.

**ACTION:** The Clerk to write to Luckings, Temples and Paul Holden to obtain 3 quotes.

**NOTED** that residents of Station Road had submitted a petition for a bus shelter to replace the existing bus stop. Further **NOTED** that Tillington PC had been assisted by WSCC in purchasing one for their Parish.

**ACTION:** PTC to contact WSCC Cllr Janet Dunton.

**ACTION: AGREED** that Cllrs Smith or Spriggs should lead.

(b) Skatepark – Committee Chairman, Cllr Hanauer reported.

**NOTED** that the Sylvia Beaufoy Youth Centre (SBYC) had agreed to meet with PTC. Further **NOTED** that District Cllr Eileen Lintill had mentioned a private piece of land near the Cricket Club as a potential site.

Cllr Hanauer informed members of the correspondence he had received from Lord Egremont whereby he had categorically stated that Hampers Common would not be viable.

**ACTION:** Cllr Hanauer to arrange a further meeting with the SBYC and Cllr Kemp.

(c) De-fib – Cllr Sneller informed members that he had spoken to John West with regards to the fitting of the de-fib in the phone box.

**ACTION:** The Clerk to place the order for the de-fib for the Leconfield Hall.

**NOTED** that Cllr Fynes is organising the box.

**NOTED** that Cllr Kemp had spoken to Andy Henderson who will be dropping off the paperwork with the tap.

Cllr Kemp informed members that the Estate would be prepared to contribute if match-funded.

**NOTED** that Cllr Sneller has organised the signage.

(d) Footpath around the hills – Cllr South reported that the Working Group had been very successful in clearing the footpath earlier this year. Discussions had taken place as to ‘how wild’ the footpath should be left.

Further investigation into who is responsible for what parts is currently being undertaken.

**AGREED** that planting will be delayed until later this year.

A discussion regarding the replacement benches took place and the offer by Eric Roadnight was highlighted. It was **AGREED** that the legal obligations of PTC for the upkeep of the ‘gifted’ bench would be tenuous and that the offer by Mr Roadnight should not be accepted.

Cllr Burden spoke of old photographs of the footpath and stated that historically, it had been kept immaculately.

Cllr Kemp wished it **NOTED** that the path should provide access for all to include the disabled, elderly and those with pushchairs.

**AGREED** that Cllr South will lead.

(e) War Memorial – **NOTED** that PTC has 3 quotes and a Grant in place.  
Proposed by Cllr Burden and seconded by Cllr Sneller that PTC will instruct Tillys.  
**RECOMMENDED** for **RESOLUTION** by Council.

(f) Hanging baskets and brackets – **NOTED** that there are still 14 brackets in the shed as planning consent is needed to attach them to the Leconfield Hall.

Cllr Kemp asked if anyone was able to do some drawings to accompany the application. Cllr Peet suggested Cllr Evans who has a working knowledge and the skill to complete the task.  
Proposed by Cllr South and seconded by Cllr Burden.

**AGREED**

**ACTION:** Cllr Evans to be contact by Cllr Kemp.

Cllr Peet suggested a friend of his who undertakes similar pro-bono work.  
**ACTION:** Cllr Peet to make contact in the event of Cllr Evans being indisposed.

**NOTED** that John Bridle is contracted to water the plants but PTC need to purchase a new hose.  
**AGREED** that this will be proposed at Finance for approval by full Council.

Austens have agreed to supply the tubs and bedding compost. The cost of the flowers have been quoted as between £60 to £100.  
Proposed by Cllr Burden and seconded by Cllr Peet to purchase the flowers.  
**RECOMMENDED** to Council.

Cllr Peet informed the Committee that he knew of 2 PBA members who would be able to assist with the planting.

**ACTION:** Cllr Peet to forward Cllr Kemp's phone number.

**ACTION:** Planting will take place in the morning of Saturday the 13<sup>th</sup> of June.

**NOTED** that out of 11 tubs, 6 must be replaced.

(g) Phone box – **NOTED** that Cllr Sneller had drafted a letter for residents of Hampers Common which will be hand delivered and Cllr Sneller will collate the responses.

**AGREED** that Cllr Sneller will be Hampers Common lead.

(h) Litter Bins – **NOTED** that Cllr Kemp had attempted to make contact with CDC regarding the bin emptying but that they had failed to come back with a quote.

**NOTED** that the litter bin at the war grave memorial was being emptied but PTC does not know who is doing it.

Further **NOTED** that PTC will negotiate with CDC regarding street cleaning.

**ACTION:** Cllr Hanauer to lead on street cleaning and litter bins.

**ACTION:** PTC to propose to CDC that they will purchase more bins if they are able to empty them.

(i) Grass cutting and hedges – **ACTION:** Clerk to speak with Naldretts regarding cutting the hedges at the Midhurst Road and Angel Street Allotments.

Proposed by Cllr Kemp and seconded by Cllr Burden that the Clerk can authorise any additional payments.

**NOTED** that Naldretts contract ends of 12 months.

**ACTION:** Cllr South to liaise with her husband on the tender specification due to his knowledge of the contract.

Proposed by Cllr Kemp and seconded by Cllr Burden that John South is PTC’s consultant in this matter.

**AGREED.**

(j) Bus stop quotes – Nothing to report.

(k) Hanging basket quotes – already minuted at OS/33/15 (f).

(l) Naldrets – already minuted at OS/33/15 (i).

(m) Flag pole – **AGREED** that the Clerk shall obtain a quote for a 5m high, 3in width flag pole.

OS/34/15 Play Areas

**NOTED** that 2 quotes had already been obtained for the redevelopment of the play parks at Rosemary Gardens and Hampers Common. The 3<sup>rd</sup> and final quote is due on Thursday the 11<sup>th</sup> of June.

The item will be deferred to the next meeting of the Committee.

OS/35/15 Allotments

The Clerk spoke of the urgency of cutting back the allotment hedges and actioning works for additional allotment water supply and repairs.

**AGREED** that this will be brought to the Finance and General Purposes Committee for approval.

OS/36/15 To consider other items at the Chairman’s discretion

None

Meeting closed – 9.33pm

Signed.....  
Chairman

Dated.....