

REPORT OF THE OPEN SPACES COMMITTEE
HELD ON 10TH MARCH 2015

MEMBERSHIP & ATTENDANCE

Chairman: * Barbara Green

Councillors * Jo Clark
* Barbara Dickens
* Tony Edwards (ex officio)
Raj Khiroya
* Jill Leeming
* Alison Preedy
Martin Trevett
* Steve Watkins (ex officio)

* Denotes members present

Officers present Claire James - Deputy Clerk
Laura Hamilton – Admin Officer

There were four members of the public present.

Recommendation 1 PERMISSIVE PARKING AREA SCHEME CONTRACT RENEWAL 15-16

The Committee

RESOLVED to recommend

That the contract for the Permissive Parking Area Scheme be renewed for the forthcoming year at the same level as the current year.

This was proposed by Cllr Alison Preedy, seconded by Cllr Steve Watkins and carried unanimously.

14/66 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were apologies for absence from Cllrs Raj Khiroya and Martin Trevett.

14/67 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

14/68 APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

The Committee

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the meeting held on 13th January 2015 which had been discussed at Full Council with no changes made, be approved as a true and correct record.

14/69 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

14/61 Letter from Rural Payments Agency: The Deputy Clerk updated Members with the information that the Rural Payments Agency had advised of an extension to their planned response date to the issues raised.

Standing orders were suspended at 8.03pm to take an address to the Committee on Agenda Items 13 - Bins and 15- Pond Creation from a Member of the public.

The meeting was reconvened at 8.07pm

14/70 FINANCIAL COMPARISON STATEMENT 2014/15

Line 220 Maintenance of the Horse Track – the underspend on this was understood to be an allowance put aside for the correction of the damp area on the track.

Line 227 Litter Bins – Members were advised that the purchase of two covered litter bins was planned.

The Committee
RESOLVED
To note the report.

14/71 OPEN SPACES OFFICER'S REPORT

Christ Church Cemetery – Maintenance contract.

The Committee
RESOLVED
To accept the increase of £123.92 in the annual Parish contribution to the charges for the maintenance of Christchurch Churchyard, noting the shared arrangements suggested.

This was proposed from the Chair by Cllr Barbara Green and carried unanimously.

Trees next to the Railway line The Common Ranger clarified the location of the trees in question in the report from London Underground and explained the issues. Members agreed that Conservation Area consent would be required. Discussion took place on the best way to deal with the area and whether to fell or coppice, acknowledging the proximity of the trees to the London Underground track.

The Committee
RESOLVED
To coppice those trees identified for reduction and to request a quote for the work from LU using their Contractors who are skilled and insured for work adjacent to railway lines.

This was proposed from the Chair by Cllr Barbara Green and carried unanimously.

Resurfacing works: The resurfacing works to the Cricket Club Permissive parking area and War Memorial Permissive parking area, the track leading to Cherry Tree Cottages and the area outside the Alms Houses is usually undertaken every two years. Members asked the Clerk to consider whether there was anything more long term that could be done with money put aside each year for this purpose. In the meantime it was agreed that the resurfacing works were undertaken now according to the quotes received. It was suggested that for the rebuilding of the wall into the War Memorial Hall permissive parking area, the builder undertaking the refurbishment works in the Summer be approached.

The Committee

RESOLVED

To undertake the resurfacing works as per the estimates received to the value of £2650, seeking a contribution to the works from the Alms Houses. Any remaining budget to be carried over for the work on the tarmac ramps to the War Memorial Hall permissive parking area.

This was proposed from the Chair by Cllr Barbara Green and carried unanimously.

Bee Hives at the Allotments: Concern was raised about introducing more bees on the allotments until feedback was received from the trial of the hives being placed at the Swillett allotment site. It was also agreed that during this time the Allotment Officer would seek feedback from bee keepers to ascertain how many hives can be placed in a given area.

The Committee

RESOLVED

That the hives at the Swillett be trialled for a year during which time no further hives would be introduced.

Mobile Saw Mill and closing of a section of the horse track: Members asked that the signs advising of the closure, for Health and Safety reasons, of the section of the horse track near where the saw mill would be operating could include a map to show the area affected.

Red List: The Common Ranger briefed Members on the Red list for vascular plants for England which identifies how threatened each plant is, highlighting the need for surveys to be undertaken more frequently than at present. Options for people undertaking such studies were discussed but it was agreed that a certain level of skill and knowledge was required. It was suggested that money needed to be budgeted for surveys.

The Committee

RESOLVED

That the Common Ranger and Clerk bring forward a proposal to the next meeting for a rolling programme of surveys, with estimates of the funding required and how the programme might be achieved.

This was proposed from the Chair by Cllr Barbara Green and carried unanimously.

Equipment: The continued use of Smart water on equipment would be followed up with the PCSO's.

The Committee

RESOLVED

To note the report.

ALLOTMENTS

14/72 OCCUPATION

The Committee

RESOLVED

To note the occupation

14/73 WAITING LISTS

The Committee
RESOLVED
To note the details on the waiting list.

14/74 ALLOTMENTS CONDITIONS OF TENANCY

The Committee
RESOLVED
That the banning of the use of carpets to suppress weeds on the allotments be a separate condition of tenancy, and that a late payment charge of £10 be introduced for tenants who do not pay their tenancy fees by the due date, with one month's notice being given, unless there were extenuating circumstances.

This was proposed from the Chair by Cllr Barbara Green and carried unanimously.

LAWN CEMETERY

14/75 INTERMENTS

The Committee
RESOLVED
To note the number of interments that had taken place.

COMMON AND GROVEWOOD

14/76 ICE CREAM CONCESSION ON CHORLEYWOOD COMMON

The Committee
RESOLVED
To accept the tender received for the Ice Cream Concession on the Common for the next two years.

This was proposed from the Chair by Cllr Barbara Green and Carried unanimously.

14/77 FITNESS CLASSES ON THE COMMON

The Committee
RESOLVED
That licence fee for fitness classes on the Common be kept at the current rate if a yearly invoice was issued. This facility should be offered to both of the current licenced users and any future licence holders.

This was proposed from the Chair by Cllr Barbara Green and carried unanimously.

14/78 BINS AT SHEPHERDS BRIDGE PERMISSIVE PARKING AREA

The Committee
RESOLVED
To move both the litter bin and dog bin to the area suggested by the Common Ranger and highlighted in the report.

This was proposed from the Chair by Cllr Barbara Green and carried unanimously.

14/79 PERMISSIVE PARKING AREA SCHEME CONTRACT RENEWAL 15-16

See Recommendation 1

14/80 POND CREATION – CAPITAL WORKS FOR HIGHER LEVEL STEWARDSHIP

The options and issues with the creation of a new pond on the Common were discussed with reference to local knowledge and maps. It was agreed that historical records would be looked at to find a pond that had been recorded previously which could be restored. It was acknowledged that to get access to some of the maps required, payment may be required. It would be left with the Parish Ranger to progress this with the help of the other Officers and Councillors as required.

GENERAL

14/81 HEALTH AND SAFETY

Members noted that there was nothing to report

14/82 CLOSURE

The meeting having commenced at 8.00 pm closed at 10.07pm.

Signed Agreed by the Chairman by email Date29.03.15.....

These minutes were agreed as a true and correct record at the Open Spaces meeting and signed by the Chairman.

Signed..... Date.....