

PATCHWAY TOWN COUNCIL

**Minutes of a meeting of the Parks & Open Spaces Committee held on  
24 March 2011 at Callicroft House, Rodway Road, Patchway.**

Present: Cllrs. M. Grotzke (in the Chair)  
L. Gray  
J. Thomas  
Mrs E. Martin  
Mrs L. Hodder

**1. Apologies**

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs. Gordon and Pomfret.

**2. Declarations of Interest**

The Chairman asked Councillors to declare any interests in items to be discussed at the meeting.

**3. Minutes**

The Minutes of the meeting held on 27 January were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

**4. Matters arising from the Minutes**

a) Pretoria Road Allotments

The Committee was pleased to hear that the work to complete the car park and move the storage containers to create space for new allotment plots had been completed and was very much appreciated by the allotments committee. It was noted that the same contractor was due to start installing the play equipment at Patchway Common within the next two weeks.

b) Scott Park Play Equipment

Cllr. Hodder reported that she had taken a group of children from Coniston Primary School to Scott Park and they had tried and greatly enjoyed the new play equipment which the Council had installed. It was agreed to recommend to the new Council that they consider providing additional caretaking at weekends in the Park to ensure safety.

c) Disabled Toilet in Scott Park

It was noted that this facility, funded by the Aiming High programme, was nearing completing.

d) Flying Start Pre-School

The Committee noted the inventory of equipment owned by Flying Start Pre-School, which had now closed due to financial mismanagement, owing Patchway Town Council over £2,000. The inventory had been carried out by SGC and the equipment was worth over £2,000. The Committee agreed, if SGC agreed this was legal, that the Town Council should take possession of this equipment in lieu of rent and make it available to the new Play Days Pre-School which was now operating at Patchway Common Pavilion.

## **5. Groundsman's Reports**

The Committee noted the reports on the playing fields and open spaces submitted by the groundsman, which are attached to the minutes.

The groundstaff were asked to mark the edges of the path from the play area to Longney Place with white paint to aid visibility at night.

The Clerk was asked to request the police to patrol Blakeney Road play area where wheelie bins had been set on fire on several occasions.

The Committee agreed to purchase two extra litter bins for the Park as it was noted they were always full. The groundstaff would be asked where would be the best places to install these.

## **6. Gorse Covert Picnic Area and Cycle Route**

The Committee noted that the Cycle City programme had run out of money before completing the promised picnic area in the field behind Stroud Road. It was noted that the Committee had funds in its budget for improvements to Gorse Covert and agreed to use part of this to create a picnic area in this field which the boundary formed by using the grey coping stone from the old railway bridge. The Clerk was asked to discuss this with SGC, which owned the land and obtain quotations for two metal picnic benches as supplied for the picnic areas in Scott Park.

It was agreed to suggest to the new Council that they should maintain a rolling programme of improvements to this area, including extending the steel sculptures designed by pupils of the Community College.

It was noted that a £500 donation had been received from the Arena Arts Development Group towards a sculpture for the picnic area, which it was agreed to accept with thanks. An estimate had been received from the sculptor,

Pete Moorhouse, who had made the existing steel sculptures, that a suitable installation for the picnic area would cost £5,000 and it was agreed to refer this project to the new Council.

**7. Matters raised by Members**

Cllr. Hodder asked if the gates to Scott Park could be modified to allow push chairs to use them. It was pointed out that the kissing gates had been installed on the advice of the police to stop motorbikes entering and riding across the Park, which had happened in the past.

**8. Date of next meeting**

It was noted that the date of the next meeting of the Committee was Thursday 26 May at 8 p.m., following the Advisory Committees.

Cllr. Grotzke stated that he had enjoyed his period of office as Chairman of the Parks & Open Spaces Committee and thanked all members for their co-operation in improving these areas for the benefit of the residents of Patchway.