

PATCHWAY TOWN COUNCIL

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

Present: Cllrs. P. Cottrell (in the Chair)

Mrs E. Martin
M. Greensword
C. Mills

In attendance: Mr L. Richardson and Mr J. Jenkins — Blakeney Road
Allotments
Mr L. McQuaid — Pretoria Rd Allotments

1. Meeting with Representatives of Allotment Associations

At this time, only Cllrs. Cottrell and Greensword were present. It was agreed that Cllr. Mills would sit on the Committee until another member arrived, and Cllr. Cottrell was appointed Chair.

a) Blakeney Road

Mr Richardson began by noting the fire at the allotment site that had caused substantial damage to equipment stored there. Most of this had now been replaced, and Mr Richardson gave thanks to the efforts of Town Council staff that assisted in cleaning smoke damage inside the containers.

The Association had looked into procuring a building with a rest room and toilets to replace the portaloos and provide space to eat and drink. This new structure, a portacabin, would be sited close to existing water and sewerage supplies but the exact location of mains electricity was currently unknown.

A £2,000 grant had been obtained from South Gloucestershire Council for a concrete foundation, but a further £9,500 was needed for ground works and a portacabin. Of this latter amount, £6,000 was being sought from other sources with the remainder (£3,500) to be requested from the Council in the next financial year. Cllr. Mills noted that with the savings gained from not hiring a portaloos, this grant would effectively be repaid within three years.

Mr Richardson reported that a number of plots were currently vacant with no applications on the waiting list. Accounts and a cheque for rent of £385 was presented to the Committee. Mr. Richardson remarked that this amount was lower than last year due to vacant plots.

Mr Richardson and Mr Jenkins then left the meeting and Cllr. Martin arrived.

b) Pretoria Road

A report from the Society was read to the Committee. It was noted that there were 25 full plots and 70 half-plots. Of 93 plot holders, 77 are

from within Patchway, 35% are female, and 30% are retired. Though the waiting list is still for Patchway residents only, there remains a lot of out-of-parish interest.

The Society had raised money to build raised beds to enable disabled and elderly residents to become involved in gardening and the allotments. However, they request that the Council help by funding the construction of concrete paths around the beds to allow wheelchair access. One quote is for £3,075 (excluding VAT) on the basis that a Council employee, or a volunteer, can assist the contractor. The Society is awaiting other quotes.

In addition to paths, the Society would like to install benches close to the raised beds for users and carers. Cllr. Martin recommended that the Society approach Almondsbury Charity to see if it would be able to assist funding this.

It was noted that some newer plots have soil that is shallow and of poor quality. Holders will be moved to other plots, as they become available elsewhere on the site. The Society had been advised that deep ploughing will not improve the quality of the area and would like to establish an orchard and nature reserve. Due to regular flooding, it was also proposed that a pond be created close to the fence line.

The Committee were pleased to note that a saving of 96% had been achieved on sewerage rates due to water reuse within the site, and that community involvement, including the Step Up programme, was good. Mr McQuaid and Cllr. Mills then left the meeting.

2. Declarations of Interest

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

Cllr. Mills declared his interest in Pretoria Road allotment site.

3. Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs. Orpen and Grotzke.

4. Minutes of Meetings held on 29 September and 25 October

The Minutes of the meetings held on 29 September and 25 October were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

5. Matters arising from the Minutes

a) Grit Bins

It was noted that Merlin Housing Society had agreed to install grit bins outside Charlton and Langdale Courts as requested by the Council.

b) Motorbikes in Gorse Covert

Cllr. Martin reported that motorbikes had been seen riding along the cycle path route in Gorse Covert. This information would be passed on to local PCSOs.

c) Sports Hall Development

The Committee was read an e-mail from Nancy Brenchley at SGC that emphasised that the off-site contribution from Bovis is for the purpose of enhancing community meeting space in the area. If, for some reason, the existing community centre cannot be made to serve Charlton Hayes residents, another site could be considered. A sports hall would not be considered to be a community space for this purpose. Further discussion on this issue was to be deferred to the next meeting.

6. Discussion on budget for 2012-13

The Committee agreed to the budget requests made by the allotment associations subject to confirmation by the Finance Committee that it would be affordable when considering the overall budget. Of the £3,690 (including VAT) agreed for the concrete paths at Pretoria Road Allotments (based on the current quotation) £400 will be carried forward from the Pretoria Road Maintenance of Shed budget. Similarly, for the building at Blakeney Road Allotments, £1,975 will be carried forward from the Blakeney Road Maintenance of Shed budget.

It was noted that in Scott Park, additional work was required on the drains and the construction of the new garage. The Committee decided that £7,000 should be taken from the play equipment budget in this financial year to cover these alterations, and to carry forward £3,000 for repairs only in the next financial year.

A quotation of £19,648.27 had been received from SGC for the laying of a new path in Scott Park. This was higher than the initial estimate, however additional quotations were being sought and it was hoped that these would be significantly less.

After discussion, the following budget was agreed:

Parks & Open Spaces

Patchway Common:

	B/f'd 2010-11	Budgeted 2011-12	Spent to Date	Carry forward	Budget 2012-13
Rates		2,500	1,710		2,500
Cleaning Materials		550	355		550
Electricity		2,000	876		2,500
Gas		2,000	491		2,500
Water		400	257		600
Skateboard Park (& Scott Park)	600	100	0	700	0
Play Equipment: Repairs		5,000	8,680		2,000
Outside Lighting (Skateboard & Teenshelter)	500	0	1,684		1,000

Scott Park:					
Cleaning Materials		400	201		400
Electricity		1,500	2,665		2,000
Gas		2,000	265		2,400
Water		500	119		500
Rates		3,000	2,208		3,000
Petrol, etc.		4,500	2,855		4,500
Play Equipment: New & Repairs		10,000	0	3,000	0
Maintenance of Machinery		12,000	7,664		12,000
Maintenance of Grounds		12,000	2,264		12,000
Insurance machinery		3,500	-100		3,500
Machinery and Tools Replacement	17,120	5,000	0		5,000
Supplies for Pitches	5,000	10,000	8,554		8,000
Seats	500	500	0	1,000	0
Litter Bins		0	0		800
Tree Planting & Landscaping	500	0	0	500	500
Water Supply		0	0		0
Lighting	500	0	0	500	0
Fencing		10,000	0		10,000
Hire of Garages		1,200	900		0
Path		25,000	0		20,000
	24,720	113,650	41,648	5,700	96,250

Less anticipated income from Parks -25,000 **-25,000**

Total budget for Parks and Playing Fields	113,370	76,950
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Allotments

	B/f'd 2010-11	Budgeted 2011-12	Spent to Date	Carry forward	Budget 2012-13
Pretoria Road Maintenance of Shed		500	96	0	0
Path for raised beds				400	3,290
Hardstanding	2,500	0	2,500	0	0
Blakeney Road Maintenance of Shed		2,000	22	0	0
New restroom				1,975	1,525
Machinery		0	0	0	0
Toilets		2,000	810	0	1,500
Total Budget Allotments		7,000			8,690

Open Spaces

	B/f'd 2010-11	Budgeted 2011-12	Spent to Date	Carry forward	Budget 2012-13
Tumps Rent		200	0	0	200
Fencing & Maintenance	2,300	0		2,300	1,500
Play Areas Repairs	1,000	2,200	496	1,700	0
Trim Trail maintenance		0	0	0	500
Areas for Young People	2,750	0	1,600	1,150	0
Other Christmas Decorations		4,000	0	0	4,000
Street Planting	500	0	0	500	0
Maintenance of WCs	500	0	20	0	0
Mosaic					1,000
Total Budget Open Spaces		13,450			12,850

7. Groundmen'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 Committee noted that work due for completion by SGC was still outstanding and requested that it be chased.

8. Matters raised by Members

a) Perimeter Fencing around Scott Park

The Committee agreed that the next section of fencing to be replaced should be from the Windermere/Pretoria Road kissing gate north.

b) Removal of Car Park Floodlights in Scott Park

Patchway Sports and Social Club suggested that removing the floodlights from the northern side of the car park in Scott Park as these illuminate the playground and attract teenagers after dark. The Committee were aware that these lights also light up the car park extension and rejected the suggestion.

c) Cycle Path Widening

The Committee welcomed an e-mail from Christopher Harris, Transportation Services, at SGC. It described, with funding from the Local Sustainable Transport Fund, the widening of the existing shared cycle path through Gorse Covert and the planned introduction of two new zebra crossings on Coniston Road. These crossings would be sited on the existing raised table near Waterside Drive, and the existing crossing near Martin Close. SGC hoped that the path widening would help alleviate conflict between pedestrians and cyclists on this path. Consultation on this matter will begin in December.

9. Date of next meeting

The next meeting would be on Thursday 26 January, preceded by the Advisory Committees.