

PATCHWAY TOWN COUNCIL

**Minutes of a meeting of the Parks & Open Spaces Committee held on 27 September 2012 at Scott Park Pavilion, Coniston Road, Patchway.**

Present: Cllrs. M. Grotzke (in the Chair)  
Mrs E. Martin  
M. Greensword  
P. Cottrell  
Mrs E. Orpen

**1. Apologies**

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr. Alsop.

**2. Declarations of Interest**

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

Cllr. Martin declared her interest as Chairman of Southern Brooks Community Partnership.

**3. Minutes**

The Minutes of the meeting held on 26 July were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

**4. Matters arising from the Minutes**

a) Memorial Garden

It was noted that the planting would be replaced with winter plants. The Sports & Social Club had reported that the memorial bench for Bob Stallard would be provided in the spring.

b) Queen Elizabeth II Field

The Land Registry was still progressing the combined registration for the two sections of Scott Park.

c) New garage

The Chairman had inspected the area and reported that the old park gates were dangerous and should be scrapped. It was agreed to dispose of the gates and install two bollards, the foundations for which had already been constructed.

## **5. Groundsmen's Reports**

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

The Committee noted the new arrangements for groundstaff working from the beginning of September which appeared to be operating well. This was that the four groundstaff were working as one team with Gary Osborne in charge.

Cllr. Orpen asked the Clerk to check the condition of the wire fence behind the bungalows, following complaints to her from residents. She also noted that there was substantial rubbish outside the skip in the car park which was the property of the Club.

The groundstaff had highlighted the poor condition of the wooden safety rail in front of the swings and of the wooden play equipment at Scott Park. The Chairman had also inspected this. The Committee agreed that the safety rail should be replaced as soon as possible by a metal kick rail manufactured by David Ogilvie Ltd. at a cost of £400 plus delivery.

In the next financial year, the Committee hoped to budget for a 6 seater round metal picnic table set for adults at £802 and four children's mushroom seats at £175 each - £700 total from the same manufacturer. These items would replace the wooden play equipment.

## **6. Skateboard Area**

The Committee was very pleased to learn that the Big Lottery Fund had agreed to make a grant of £10,000 to the Scott Park Skatepark Improvement Project. This information was confidential to Councillors until announced by the Lottery on 20 November and must be spent within 12 months.

The Committee noted that three quotations had been received for resurfacing of the tarmac area and it was agreed to accept the lowest at £4,895 from Apre Surfacing Ltd. The groundstaff were able to remove the current equipment (except the half-pipe which was remaining) so that the resurfacing could take place.

The Committee noted that following consultation with young people by Southern Brooks youth staff, a list of equipment in order of preference had been provided to the Council. This had necessitated obtaining fresh quotations from the three companies who had already submitted prices: Gravity, Urban Recreation and Evolution. The Committee agreed that, if all the new quotations were for the same specification, the lowest price should be accepted

and the project progressed as quickly as possible. It was hoped that this information would be available in time for the Finance Committee meeting the following week.

## **7. Car Park Repairs**

The Committee noted that there were large potholes in the car park and in the approach road to the Park which were dangerous to pedestrians. These had been highlighted by the insurers of Patchway Sports & Social Club. The Committee noted four prices obtained for resurfacing the whole area and for patching the potholes and agreed that in this financial year the essential work should be carried out and that the Committee would hope to budget to resurface the whole car park in the next financial year.

It was agreed to accept the lowest price for patching which was from Apre for £7,630 and it was hoped that this work could be carried out at the same time as the work in the Skatepark which could reduce the cost.

The Committee hoped to include in its budget for the next financial year the work to complete the perimeter path and repair the existing paths. This cost was likely to be £12,500 but the Clerk would obtain up to date costings.

## **8. Other matters**

### **a) Patchway Cricket Club**

The Committee noted a request from the Treasurer that in view of the large number of matches cancelled due to wet weather this season and the resultant loss of income to the Club, their fee of £1,000 should be reduced. The Committee agreed by 4-0 with 1 abstention to reduce the fee to £700 for this season only.

### **b) Circus Ginnett**

The Committee agreed that this circus could use the Tumps field at Waterside Drive from 1-3 July 2013 on the same conditions as before.

### **c) Grass cutting for Merlin tenants**

The Clerk read a letter from the Area Manager of Merlin concerning charges introduced this financial year to tenants for grass cutting amenity land in front of properties. Cllr. Grotzke had received complaints about these charges. It was noted that Merlin would be arranging a session for Town Councillors to meet with their staff in the near future and that on Friday 28 September there would be an environmental walkabout with Merlin staff at The Parade at 10 a.m. which would give an opportunity for Councillors to raise any issues about environmental issues.

- d) Army Cadet Force  
The Committee agreed that Patchway ACF could use the field at The Tumps on an ad hoc basis throughout the year on Monday or Thursday evenings between 6.30-9.30 for outdoor activities.
- e) BMX Club  
The Committee agreed that the Club could use the track for a winter race series on one Sunday a month from October to March with the usual conditions on time and noise to avoid disturbing the neighbours. The Committee noted that track repairs would be necessary during the winter and that the Club was exploring funding for floodlighting with help from the police to make the use of the track safer during the winter months. The Committee was pleased to note that the Club had 20 race nights this year and membership was 151.

**9. Date of next meeting**

The next meeting would be on Thursday 25 October at 7.30 p.m. at Callicroft House.