

PATCHWAY TOWN COUNCIL

**Minutes of a meeting of the Parks & Open Spaces Committee held on
29 November 2012 at Callicroft House, Rodway Road, Patchway.**

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

Representatives of Allotment Associations:

Mr. L. Richardson) Blakeney Road
Mrs C. Richardson) Allotments

Mr. L. Brooks) Pretoria Road
Mr. C. Mills) Allotments

1. Meeting with Representatives of Allotment Associations

a) Blakeney Road

Mr. Richardson reported on good progress with the plans to site a building near the entrance for the use of allotment holders, which would have disabled access, a kitchen and toilet. The building would be a metal container with metal shutters to cover the doors and windows. Planning permission had been obtained and over £15,000 of grants had been received, thanks to the help of Karen Cheal of Southern Brooks Community Partnership. Merlin Housing Society, The Big Lottery, Co-operative Society, South Gloucestershire Council and Patchway Town Council had all made grants and Guinness Housing had agreed to a connection with the sewer on their adjacent property to save costs of connecting to the main sewer in the road. Once Wessex Water had approved the contractor to carry out the connection, the services would be connected and the building should be on site early in the new year. B&Q had donated tables and chairs. Mr. Richardson thanked the Town Council for all their help and support with this project.

Mrs Richardson presented the accounts for the past year which had been agreed at their AGM and a cheque for £400 rent. It was noted that at present there were 12 half-plots vacant on the site and 38 plots used. Mr. Richardson requested a grant in the next financial year to purchase a heavy-duty cultivator which could help the members maintain the site. The Chairman said that this request would be considered later in the meeting, but suggested that the Association could approach Merlin

Housing Society or Almondsbury Charity for a grant to pay for this item.

b) Pretoria Road

Mr. Mills presented the annual accounts and a cheque for £1,095 as rent for the forthcoming year. The committee had asked that the Town Council reconsider the decision to increase the rent from October 2013 due to the number of pensioners on the site.

Mr. Mills thanked the Council for its grant for the hard standing. The raised beds constructed on the concrete had been very popular with disabled members and two were used by the Chescombe Trust. In the next year the Association would like to construct more raised beds and was asking the Council to pay £1,500 towards the cost of this hard standing.

There was still a problem with water-logging which they were hoping to overcome. A pond had been created on one side to aid the drainage and this was being planted with the help of pupils of Coniston Primary School. In a joint project with the Conservation Group in the spring, 400 hedging plants had been planted round the boundary of the site. When this was inspected recently by the Woodland Trust, they had reported 95% of the trees had taken.

During the year 5 baths had been replaced by water-collecting barrels to reduce the cost of water supply. The shed was being well used by members and a new community group would be using it from December called "Men in Sheds".

All the plots were taken at present except for one half plot. They had turned away Bradley Stoke residents as agreed by the Council. At present the tenants were 71 from Patchway and 11 from outside.

The committee thanked the Council for its support and asked if a length of barbed wire could be fixed to brackets along the top of the fence in the corner by Scott Park/Longney Place to prevent children climbing in and vandalising the site.

The Chairman thanked the allotment representatives for their attendance and reports and they then left the meeting.

2. Apologies

There were no apologies for absence.

3. Declarations of Interest

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

4. Minutes

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

5. Matters arising from the Minutes

a) Allotment Rent Increase

The Committee considered the representations from the allotment holders about the increase in rent. Cllr. Mills declared his interest and left the room during discussion of this item.

After discussion it was agreed by 4-1 to confirm the decision taken at the last meeting.

6. Scott Park car park repairs

a) Car park drainage

Three quotations had been obtained from Bristol Drains, Mogford Prescott and Wilmott Building. As the quotations from Mogford and Wilmott were very close, £2850 and £2820, the Committee agreed to Accept whichever company was able to start the work first in view of the urgency of clearing the flooding.

b) Tarmac repairs

The Council had agreed at its last meeting to seek advice from SGC on the specification which should be followed for the repairs to the potholes in the car park and approach road at the Park. The Committee had a table of all the quotations received and their specifications and noted that none matched the specification recommended by SGC which was that areas should be planed out to a depth of 140mm and reinstated with 100mm depth of binder course and 40mm of surface course.

The Committee agreed that the best value would be achieved by accepting the quotation of SGC for the following repairs: 130m² in the car park (£5,274.84) and 200m² on the approach road (£7,912.77).

7. Budget for next financial year

The Committee discussed the following items had been considered during the year which it was agreed to include in the budget for next year:

- 1) Play area in Scott Park: 6 seater round metal picnic table set for adults and 4 children's mushroom seats, total cost £1,500. It was also agreed to include £1,500 for maintenance of existing play equipment.

- 2) Another 100m of steel paling fencing round Scott Park would cost £10,000. The next section would be from the top gate to the kissing gate at the back of Pretoria Road, which might not be as long as 100m. The length would be checked as this could reduce the cost.
- 3) Memorial garden planting: It was agreed to increase the budget for landscaping from £250 to £500. The Committee agreed that a long-term aim should be to consider growing our own plants for landscaping.

The groundstaff had requested a new ride-on mower as the Ransomes 981 had cost almost £4,000 in repairs this year. TH White had supplied information on an ex-hire cylinder machine with 2 year warranty which the groundstaff thought would be ideal for cutting pitches. The cost would be £16,000 and the Committee decided, rather than budgeting for this in the next financial year, to purchase it now from the funds available in the Parks budget. This was unanimously agreed by the Committee.

The Committee had wished to complete missing section of perimeter paths in Scott Park and widen the path behind the bungalows (estimated cost £19,500) and to site outdoor fitness equipment at various points round the Park.

The Committee was pleased to note information from Cllr. Scott that a sum of money was likely to be given to the Council by SGC for community projects from the new New Homes Bonus fund and it was agreed that part of this fund could be used for this item and would not need to be included in the Council's budget.

The Committee had discussed resurfacing of car park in Scott Park in the next financial year but it was agreed that the patching work already agreed would cover any urgent work and that a full resurfacing could be put off for a future year.

The Chairman pointed out that the steps up to the large tump with the beacon on needed repairing and the Clerk would seek funding for this through the Conservation Group which built these steps.

The Committee then agreed a budget for Parks, Allotments and Open Spaces to be put forward to the Finance Committee and this is attached to the Minutes.

8. Other Matters

- a) Cllr. Orpen reported that a report was to be presented to Development Control West by the officers that Bovis wished to change the plans for Charlton Hayes to remove the shops and employment land from the site and replace them with more housing. Councillors were very concerned at this information and asked the Clerk to seek clarification and invite the Major Sites Officer to give an update to Council on this matter.

b) The Committee noted that Patchway Cricket Club were no longer able to maintain the cricket square in Scott Park and had asked if the groundstaff would take over this role, which they were very pleased to do. Advice on maintenance had been obtained from a former MCC groundsman and the staff had asked if they could attend a training course run by the IOG in the spring. The Committee agreed to the training and noted that there would be no extra cost to the Council as for many years they had paid for the materials used by the Cricket Club in maintaining the square. The groundstaff already cut and maintained the outfield during the season.

9. Date of next meeting

The next meeting would be on Thursday 31 January at 8 p.m., preceded by the Advisory Committees. The venue would be Callicroft House.