

PATCHWAY TOWN COUNCIL

**Minutes of a meeting of the Parks & Open Spaces Committee held on
28 February 2013 at Callicroft House, Rodway Road, Patchway.**

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

In attendance: Mrs Alison Richards, Street Cleansing Manager, SGC

1. Green Dog Walkers Scheme

Mrs Richards explained that SGC still had two Dog Wardens but that their duties covered not only fouling but also stray and aggressive dogs. There were many problems of dog fouling in the District and so the Council had taken out a licence to operate the Green Dog Walkers Scheme which was started and copywrited by Falkirk Council.

The scheme was not operated by SGC but by local groups which could be council or voluntary organisation led. Residents who joined would “sign the pledge” to always clear up after their dog and to give bags to those who do not have them. It was appreciated that most dog walking took place outside the hours of work of Dog Wardens so this voluntary scheme had been found to be effective. There were five groups operating in SG and each had its own model of operation. SGC supply them with green arm bands or badges for members to wear and supplies of bags.

There was a discussion on how the decision of SGC to remove dog bins to cut costs would impact on this scheme but Mrs Richards said residents could put the bags in ordinary litter bins or take them home.

Frampton Cotterell scheme was running an event in April and the Clerk would find information about this so that representatives of Patchway could attend. It was suggested that the scheme could then be publicised through the Patchway Safer & Stronger Group, which met on 24 April, and through local dog walkers. The Town Council could then hold a meeting of those interested to decide whether the scheme in Patchway would be run by volunteers or co-ordinated through the Council. It was suggested that a representative from Frampton Cotterell could speak at this meeting.

The Chairman thanked Mrs Richards for attending the meeting and she left all Councillors with a leaflet explaining the scheme and agreed to send a template of a notice used by SGC to fix to lamp posts in areas where dog fouling was a particular problem.

2. Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr. Orpen.

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 31 January were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

5. Matters arising from the Minutes

a) New Homes Bonus

The Committee was very pleased to hear that SGC had awarded £15,000 from this fund to the Town Council for improvements to the Skatepark in Scott Park.

b) Car park repairs

Cllr. Mills informed the Committee that additional work had been carried out by SGC due to a discrepancy in measurement of the defective area and to further deterioration of the bad surface. This matter would be dealt with by the Finance Committee.

c) Sensory Garden and new play features

The Committee was very pleased to see the plan for the extension of the play area in Scott Park which was to be funded by SGC and carried out by the end of the financial year. The plan is filed with these minutes.

6. Groundman's Report

The Groundman's Report was discussed and noted and is attached to the minutes.

The Committee noted that verti-draining of all pitches would be carried out at the end of the football season to improve drainage. The Clerk was asked to ascertain the cost of purchasing verti-draining equipment.

7. Queen Elizabeth II Jubilee Park

This status had now been conferred on Scott Park and the Jubilee Oak presented to the Council by the Tree Council would be incorporated in the new Sensory Garden discussed earlier. There was also a metal circular plaque, which would be delivered shortly, and the Committee discussed the best way to display this at the entrance to the Park.

There would be a discussion at the next meeting of a celebratory event to mark the creation of the Jubilee Park and it was noted that the Sports & Social Club had agreed to arrange a reception.

8. Patchway Cricket Club

The Committee noted that the Cricket Club was promoting the Club in advance of their Centenary celebrations in July with posters and leaflets. They were also running a coaching scheme with the English Cricket Board called “Chance to Shine” which they were promoting through all schools in Patchway in an attempt to involve more young people in the sport.

The Committee noted that Gary and Richard were undertaking a cricket maintenance course at the end of March so that the Council would have three groundstaff qualified to work on the cricket pitch and square.

It was noted that the Centenary celebrations would be included in the Festival Programme and Patchway People for maximum publicity. The first event was a match against an MCC team on Sunday 14 July.

9. Date of next meeting

The next meeting would be on Thursday 28 March at 7.30 p.m.