

PATCHWAY TOWN COUNCIL

**Minutes of a meeting of the Parks & Open Spaces Committee held on
26 September 2013 at Patchway Common Pavilion.**

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

1. Sports Vision for Patchway

The Chairman welcomed Rob Stirzaker from SGC who was representing Patchway Community Sports Association and representatives of sports clubs and the community who had stayed on from the earlier Advisory Committees.

Rob presented the vision which the Sports Association had been developing over several months. He stated that the Association represented 19 sports and 50 clubs in Patchway, which was amazing. Rob pointed out that with future development of new housing at Charlton Hayes and Cribbs Patchway, there was a danger that new facilities would be developed in other areas in the long term and in the short term as residents moved in and did not find the facilities they wanted, they would start to use facilities in other places.

The Association would like the Council's support in looking at Scott Park as a sports hub for the area and developing an all-weather pitch which would be used every night as all clubs want local training facilities. An indoor facility was very much needed as the sports hall at the Community College was in poor condition and too far away from housing. The Harriers Gymnastic Club was desperate for good quality indoor facilities for training and the Association had agreed to support the Harriers as well as the BMX Club in obtaining funding to develop their facilities, as both are high-achieving clubs.

There was discussion about purchasing one of the warehouses on Patchway Trading Estate for redevelopment as a sports centre as this site would be central to both the existing and new areas of Patchway. It was agreed that the Patchway Sports Strategy needed to be part of the SGC Strategic Sports Plan and could also be incorporated by Patchway Town Council as part of the Community Plan which they were working on.

There was discussion on working towards incorporating a half marathon or 10k run into Patchway Festival and it was noted that within the next two years there would be a tarmac circuit path round Scott Park which could be used for training. The importance of establishing a cycling club to encourage young people to cycle safely was also supported.

The representatives of Patchway Sports Junior FC stated that they would like to attend meetings of the Sports Association and take part in future discussions on the development of Scott Park as a sports hub.

The Chairman thanked Rob for his inspiring presentation and said that the Council looked forward to working with the Sports Association in the future. Mr. Stirzaker and the sports representatives then left the meeting.

2. Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs. Mills and Grotzke. It was noted that Rob Stirzaker from SGC was unable to attend but would speak at the September meeting on the Strategic Sports Vision.

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 18 July and the special meeting held on 3 September to arrange the celebration of the QII Jubilee Park were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

5. Matters arising from the Minutes

- a) Queen Elizabeth II Jubilee Park
Members agreed that the event on Saturday 21 September had been a great success and thanked all who had contributed to this. Photographs of the two ceremonies were circulated: firstly, the QEII plaque had been unveiled at the entrance to Scott Park and secondly, a ribbon had been cut to open the accessible play equipment and Jubilee Oak tree in the play area. Both ceremonies had been performed by Cllr. Ian Boulton, Chair of SGC and had been well covered by press. Several disabled children and their families had been present and children's activities had been arranged by SGC through the Wild4Life project. There was still outstanding work to be completed by SGC on the new sensory garden.
- b) Green Dog Walkers Scheme
This matter was still being progressed

- c) Skateboard Area
It was noted that a graffiti project had been carried out by SBCP youth workers with young people during the summer holidays. Additional consultation would now be carried out with young people concerning the safety aspects of fencing the area and the contract for carrying out this work had been put on hold until a report from youth workers was received.

- d) WWI Centenary
The planting of wildflowers, including poppies for the WWI centenary, in open areas of Patchway would be discussed at a meeting to be arranged with the Patchway RBL Branch.

- e) Diesel tank in Scott Park
The Committee noted that an alternative quotation for cleaning out the existing tank and constructing a bund of membrane-lined breeze-block walling was being obtained which would be considerably cheaper than replacing the tank. The price for cleaning and fitting a filter would be £505.60 and the price for the bund was awaited.

6. Groundman's Report

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

It was noted that the groundstaff would find it beneficial to have a tractor-mounted verti-drainer which could be used on both the cricket and football pitches during the year to improve the drainage. Prices for second-hand equipment were being sourced for consideration by the Committee. It was noted that professional treatment once a year was still recommended for the pitches.

It was agreed to arrange refresher training for the groundstaff in the safe handling of machinery and various providers were being contacted for costs of a one day training session.

The Committee agreed that the Clerk should look into the costs of moving the zip wire at Gorse Covert into a more open area due to problems of vandalism at the current site which was hidden from view by a tree plantation.

The Committee agreed that it would be helpful to meeting with neighbouring councils to discuss maintenance of open spaces when Street Care had reduced their service. This followed a request from Filton Town Council.

7. **Date of next meeting**

The next meeting would be on Thursday 24 October at Callicroft House.