

PATCHWAY TOWN COUNCIL

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

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

In attendance: Mr & Mrs Richardson, Blakeney Road
Mr. L. Brooks) Pretoria Road
Mr. D. Ball)

1. Discussion with Allotment Associations

The Chairman welcomed the representatives of the Allotment Associations and asked them to give their reports.

Blakeney Road

Mr. Richardson reported on a break in to the new building on 5 November. The police had been contacted and a claim for the damage was being made on the insurance. There had been no theft but the window shutter had been forced open and the mains cable pulled out.

The Association was disappointed that BAe had pulled out of their agreement to build a patio and access path for disabled members although they had delivered the materials. The members would try and construct the path and patio when weather conditions permitted. An open day had been held during Patchway Festival which had been very enjoyable.

Despite writing 13 letters, the Association had been unsuccessful in attracting any further grants towards the costs of the new building but Almondsbury Charity had funded a bench and play equipment for children and Asda had donated an apple tree. Councillors suggested an application to Quartet for funding. Mr. Richardson thanked the Council for making up the shortfall for the building project and said that the Association would not be making a request for funding next year.

At present there were 35 tenants with 17 plots taken (many were half plots) and 8 empty plots.

It was noted that publicity for the empty plots had been included in a recent newsletter circulated in Charlton Hayes.

Pretoria Road

Mr. Brooks reported that the site was running well with 2 raised beds plus 8 half plots available. The committee was planning to extend the raised beds but would like to carry forward the Town Council to next year as they wished to plough and rotovate the area before carrying out this work. The Committee was pleased to agree to carry the sum of £1,500 over to the next financial year.

The Association would like to have a noticeboard inside the main gate and the Councillors suggested approaching Men in Sheds to make one, the Council supplying the materials.

The Clerk read a letter from South Gloucestershire Council explaining that, due to financial restrictions, the community compost site adjacent to the allotment site would be closed in December and the site cleared. The Town Council planned to hand this land back to the allotments association and to prepare it for allotment plots.

The Association's committee asked if this new land could be planted as a community orchard but the Councillors pointed out that, due to the development of housing at Charlton Hayes, provision needed to be made for allotment plots for the new residents.

The Chairman thanked the allotment representatives for their presentations and for their financial reports, which were left with the Clerk.

2. Apologies

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

3. Declarations of Interest

The Chairman asked members to declare any interests on matters to be discussed.

4. Minutes

The minutes of the last meeting held 24 October were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman with the deletion of the words "and the price for the bund was awaited" from the end of minute 4c.

5. Matters arising from the minutes

a) Skateboard fencing

It was noted that the cost of the bow top fencing was £11,160, to be covered by the New Homes Bonus funding. There was not sufficient funding remaining from the grant for the proposed graffiti wall and the Committee agreed to postpone this until a later date.

b) Meeting with RBL

It was noted that a suitable date for a meeting was awaited from the Legion Committee. The Clerk was asked to obtain a guide price for a plinth for the memorial for budgeting purposes.

6. Discussion of budget proposals for 2014-15

The Committee discussed items to be included in the Parks & Playing Fields budget and the Allotment & Open Spaces budget.

It was agreed to include £11,000 for new fencing on the line of the boundary of the allotment site at Newnham Place to be installed after SGC had cleared the community compost site. It was also agreed to increase the budget for plants and for essential upgrades for grounds maintenance machinery.

The Committee agreed to purchase small items requested by the groundstaff from this year's budget.

The proposed budget is attached to these minutes for the consideration of the Finance Committee.

7. Matters raised by Councillors and Clerk

The Clerk was asked to take action on the following issues: graffiti on the play equipment at Gorse Covert and on the bench at Sycamore Drive; request SGC to provide a litter bin in the car park by the Sorting Office in Coniston Road; trees were overhanging the pavement on the left side of Waterside Drive; request SGC to build housing on the disused garage site at Newnham Place.

It was agreed to hold a site visit to Pretoria Road Allotments after April to see the cleared community compost site and to consider whether the surplus area should be grassed until there was a demand for it as allotment plots.

It was also agreed to give future consideration to improvements to Scott Park such as a paddling pool, outdoor fitness equipment and concrete table tennis tables, both of which were popular in Bristol parks. It was hoped that there would be additional NHB funding to cover such costs.

The Clerk informed Councillors of a volunteer who was assisting the groundstaff several days a week. It was agreed to seek information on whether there was funding available to train him through an apprentice scheme.

8. Date of next meeting

It was noted that the next meeting would be held on Thursday 30 January at 8 pm at Callicroft House, immediately following the Advisory Committees.