

PATCHWAY TOWN COUNCIL

**Minutes of a meeting of the Parks & Open Spaces Committee held on
30 October 2014 at Scott Park Pavilion, Coniston Road, Patchway.**

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

1. Apologies

There were no apologies for absence.

2. Declarations of Interest

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

3. Minutes

The minutes of the last meeting held 11 September were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman, proposed Cllr. Grotzke, seconded Cllr. Greensword.

There were no matters arising from the minutes.

4. Patchway Branch of the Royal British Legion

The Committee noted the minutes of a meeting held between the Committee and the RBL Branch Committee on 15 October.

It was noted that it was likely that a new memorial would be needed as the condition of the current memorial was poor. The RBL accepted the Council's offer to have the memorial in Scott Park and the Clerk would obtain a cost from two stone masons.

The Clerk reported that representatives of the football clubs had suggested that Patchway Roundabout would be an ideal position for the memorial where it would be very visible. It was agreed to ask the groundstaff to mark out the size of the current memorial and flag poles in Scott Park (3m x 3m) so that a site visit could be arranged. It was noted that the height of the four flag poles varied from 12ft to 20ft.

5. Skateboard Area

The Committee noted that the agreed repairs had been carried out but were still not satisfactory as the Fun Box in the centre of the area had been retained from the previous equipment when other items had been replaced. It was noted that a replacement would cost £6,200 and it was agreed to apply for funding from NHB or other sources. The contractor which had carried out the repair in the summer would be asked to rectify the sunken tarmac and sharp-angled side with a curved metal skirt.

6. Groundsmen's Reports

The Committee noted the reports from the groundsmen which are attached to the minutes.

Cllr. Martin reported that clearance work at the back of Bevington Walk houses had been appreciated.

Councillors emphasised that personal safety protection must be worn by groundstaff when using power-driven equipment.

7. Mower

The Committee noted a report that the Ransomes 951 Mower, which had been used for additional cutting duties since SGC reduced their cutting of highway verges, was now in poor condition. Over £1,000 had been spent on repairs since June, with £3,700 in 2013, and the total amount needed to overhaul it at the end of the season would be £6,600.

After discussion, the Committee agreed to purchase an ex-demonstration/hire Ransomes HR6010 batwing mower. The cost of the mower was £26,000 (£40,000 new) but TH White would allow £3,000 trade-in on the current Ransomes 951. The cost to the Council would, therefore be £23,000 and this would be taken from the £35,000 set aside for machinery replacement. This was proposed by Cllr. Mills, seconded by Cllr. Grotzke and agreed by the Committee.

10. Matters raised by Members or Clerk

An illustrated report of a Picnic in the Park organised by SBCP in July was circulated for information and its success was welcomed by the Committee.

It was agreed to support an event to be organised by the SGC Anti-Dog Fouling Officer, Roger Poole, on Monday 17 November and to serve tea at Callicroft House for the winners of a poster competition run by Mr. Poole in July and won by students from St. Chad's Primary School. Councillors who were

available were invited to Patchway Police Centre at 1.30 p.m. for the presentation.

11. Date of next meeting

It was noted that the next meeting would be held on Thursday 27 November at Callicroft House, commencing at 6.30 p.m. with the annual meeting with the allotment associations. The budget for the Committee for 2015-16 would be set at this meeting.