

PATCHWAY TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Parks & Open Spaces Committee held on 27 November 2014 at Callicroft House, Rodway Road, Patchway.

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

In attendance: Mr. L. Richardson, Blakeney Road Allotments
Mr. L. Brooks & Mr. D. Howell, Pretoria Road Allotments

1. Reports from Allotment Societies

Blakeney Road

Mr. Richardson reported that the site had suffered three break-ins and several acts of vandalism which had resulted in several tenants terminating their contracts. He currently had 15 half-plots vacant. Mr. Richardson asked for a grant towards purchasing a third container so that tools could be stored safely.

Cllr. Mills stated that, unfortunately, the Council was unable to make any grants for allotment sites in the next financial year due to pressure on budgets.

The Committee noted that expenditure on Blakeney Road allotments in this financial year had covered repairs to the container following vandalism, although this had been covered by an insurance payment in the previous financial year.

Pretoria Road

Mr. Brooks reported a good year. 4 half-plots were currently vacant but they expected to let these in the spring. The noticeboard had been made and erected by Men in Sheds and compost bins had been delivered by SGC to compensate for the loss of the Community Compost Site. The Committee asked if there were surplus composting bins available, they could be made available to tenants at Blakeney Road and this was agreed.

The compost bays will be refurbished and relocated with two at each end of the site to improve accessibility. The water harvesting units would be modified to allow them to catch more water. The society would be able to use other funds to pay the farmer to plough, rotovate and seed the land which had previously been used as the compost site. Mr. Brooks invited Councillors to attend their Christmas Fair the following Sunday.

The Committee noted that expenditure on Pretoria Road allotments in this financial year had covered repairs to the leaking containers where tools were stored and

reinstatement of the land formerly used as the Community Compost Site. The Council had replaced the fencing and double gates, moved the container where the large tractor is stored to the other end of the site, arranged the removal of concrete lumps, scrap metal and other rubbish which had been dumped there as fly tipping on the composting site. Expenditure on renovating the land and repairing the containers had totalled £3,436.

The Chairman thanked the representatives for their attendance and reports and they then left the meeting, leaving their accounts for the past year and rental payments with the Clerk.

2. Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr. 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 30 October were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman, proposed Cllr. Mills, seconded Cllr. Greensword.

5. Matters arising from the Minutes

a) RBL memorial

The Committee noted that costings for a replacement memorial were awaited from the stone-mason at Davies' and the Co-op Funeral Services.

b) Anti-dog fouling poster competition

Several Councillors had attended the award ceremony for three pupils from St. Chad's School at the Police Station and the Council Office and it was agreed that it had been a very successful event.

The Committee agreed to recommend to SGC that the anti-dog fouling pilot Scheme, which had been so successful in Patchway, should be used in other priority neighbourhood areas.

The Committee agreed to use the winning posters to display in various areas in Patchway.

6. Groundsmen's Reports

The Committee noted the reports from the groundsmen which are attached to the minutes, and were pleased to note that the new chipper was proving so useful.

7. Budget for Parks & Open Spaces, 2015-16

The Committee discussed on-going projects and agreed that necessary safety repairs should be carried out to the Fun Box at the Skateboard Area in Scott Park and that the total length of the perimeter path should be carried out if funds were available. The Chairman pointed out that many sections of the existing path were uneven, cracked and dangerous, especially for older people.

The budgets for Allotments, Open Spaces and Scott Park were then discussed and agreed for consideration by the Finance Committee. The total expenditure was as follows:

Allotments	nil
Open Spaces	£7,200
Scott Park	£54,000 (after deducting anticipated rental income)

8. Matters raised by Members or Clerk

Playdays Pre-School Group

Councillors had already been informed that this group, which met at Patchway Common Pavilion, was closing due to financial problems. They had brought forward the closing date and had finished last week.

It was noted that another group had approached the Clerk with a request to start sessions in January. Information on this organisation, LA Childcare, which already operated two groups in Bradley Stoke and one in Almondsbury, was circulated to Councillors.

As the building would pass to the control of Stoke Lodge Parish in April, it was agreed that the Clerk should consult the three Stoke Lodge Councillors on their views on this application. The Committee agreed that they would be happy to rent the building to LA Childcare until the end of March on the present terms. The question of the back rent owed by Playdays would be referred to the Finance Committee for discussion.

9. Date of next meeting

It was noted that the next meeting would be held on Thursday 29 January at Callicroft House, commencing at 7 p.m. with the Advisory Committees.