

PATCHWAY TOWN COUNCIL

**Minutes of a meeting of the Parks & Open Spaces Committee held on
30 April 2015 at Callicroft House, Rodway Road, Patchway.**

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

1. Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr. Mills.

2. Declarations of Interest

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

3. Minutes

The minutes of the last meeting held 26 February were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman, proposed Cllr. Greensword, seconded Cllr. Grotzke. It was noted that the March meeting was not held.

The Committee endorsed the minutes of the Patchway Common Advisory Committee and of the Scott Park Advisory Committee which were both held on 29 January. It was noted that this was the final meeting of the Advisory Committee for Patchway Common and the minutes were, therefore, signed by the Chairman.

It was noted that the next Advisory meeting for Scott Park would be held on 28 May.

4. Matters arising from the Minutes

a) Footpath in Scott Park

The Committee noted that work had been completed on the tarmac path and any damage to the grassed areas adjacent to the path was being made good.

b) 321 Running Route

The Committee was pleased that the running route round the Park was shortly to be marked out. It was noted that this route would be used regularly by Patchway Runners and that the BMX Club had stated they would like to use it as a cycling route on their Wednesday Club Nights. Councillors were concerned that this could pose a danger to runners and

asked the Clerk to request that the Club should arrange for marshals to supervise the cyclists on Wednesdays.

c) Common Land

This issue had been referred to the Legal Officer of SGC and a reply was awaited.

d) Litter bins

The work to install metal litter bins at bus stops was now in progress. SGC had agreed that these bins should also be installed on metal posts adjacent to the new red metal benches had been installed by SGC as part of easier walking routes in Patchway

e) Fly tipping

The Committee noted that, with the agreement of the Council, items fly tipped in the back lanes of the Callicroft Ward had been removed by the Council staff.

5. War Memorial site in Scott Park

The Committee noted that the memorial cross had been removed from Rodway Road as agreed and set in the new site at Scott Park, surrounded by paving slabs. A hedge had been planted round the site and, when complete, flower beds would be created on each side. It seemed that the RBL Committee was happy to retain the existing memorial, although the marble needed cleaning, and was no longer wishing to replace it. Mr. Sollars had suggested that a wall could be constructed behind the memorial where the names of the fallen from the two World Wars could be recorded.

Cllr. Grotzke stated that some RBL Branch members had asked him about removing the wall across the car park to create a larger parade ground but the Committee agreed to await confirmation from the RBL of the decision on the memorial before discussing these two matters further.

6. Groundsmen's Reports

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

Cllr. Grotzke asked if additional support could be given to the Les Bosisto memorial tree. The Clerk would obtain advice on the care of eucalyptus trees. It was noted that the QEII oak tree, which had been snapped off by vandals, had been replaced.

The Clerk informed Councillors that Four Towns & Vale Link Community Transport were now looking at an office unit in Rudgeway where they hoped to

move by the end of June. It was noted that there would be no charge to the Council for the removal of the temporary buildings or service connections and that one unit would be moved to the far end of the Town Council's garage to provide a base for the Men in Sheds project.

7. Matters raised by Members or Clerk

a) Car park and footpath repairs in Scott Park

Cllr. Cottrell noted that there was still a large patch of tarmac at the side of the Sports & Social Club which had not been repaired in 2013 and it was noted that it had not been possible to include all areas of the car park in the repairs due to budget restrictions. The Chairman suggested that the new Council could look at the cost of completing this work.

The Clerk had circulated information from SGC that the length of tarmac path from the main entrance to the car park which had not been sufficiently poor to be re-laid as part of the footpath contract. The price for surfacing this with slurry seal was £789.89 and the work could be carried out at the end of May. The Committee agreed unanimously to have this work completed.

b) Disabled access to Scott Park

Cllr. Martin reported a request from a resident that the kissing gates in Scott Park should be replaced by barriers which provided access to those with wheelchairs or buggies. The Committee noted the historical position of the Council that the kissing gates prevented motorbikes accessing the Park but noted that the main gate was always open.

After discussion, it was agreed to look at the feasibility of changing the gates to barriers at the Longney Place entrance and at the two entrances from Windermere Road. The Clerk was asked to obtain costings for discussion at the next meeting.

8. Date of next meeting

It was noted that the next meeting would be held on Thursday 28 May at 7.30 pm.