

PATCHWAY TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Parks & Open Spaces Committee held on 15 September 2015 at Scott Park Pavilion, Coniston Road, Patchway.

Present: Cllrs. P. Cottrell (in the Chair)
Mrs E. Martin
J. Butler
Mrs E. Orpen
Mrs R. Messenger
E. Gordon
R. Loveridge
M. Grotzke

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 21 July were agreed as a correct record, proposed Cllr. Martin, seconded Cllr. Loveridge, and signed by the Chairman.

4. Matters arising from the Minutes

a) War Memorial

It was noted that the cross had been cleaned by monumental masons and that no further work would be carried out before the Remembrance Parade in November.

b) Surfacing in play area and carpark repairs

It was noted that the agreed work to extend the safer surfacing and infill gaps in the existing tiles had been completed.

It was also noted that SGC had carried out the following agreed work during August: repaired a patch to the car park, covered an area of cracked tarmac footpath near the entrance to the park with slurry seal and installed the 321 running track markings. The total cost for this work was £8,275.74.

c) Barriers to replace kissing gate for disabled access

The Committee considered information and illustrations on various barriers

and it was agreed that the best model would be a Woodstock Large Mobility Kissing Gate which could be fully opened with a Radar key to allow larger mobility wheelchairs to use it. The cost of this gate was £499 plus VAT and the Clerk would try to find a nearby site where this gate was in use so that Councillors could visit the site before a decision was taken at the next meeting.

d) Memorial Benches

The Clerk had approached the Fleet Air Arm Association to donate a 2nd WW bench and the RBL to donate a 1st WW bench. The cost of each bench was £595 and responses were awaited.

5. Agreement of s106 funding from Charlton Hayes for Scott Park

Cllr. Loveridge reported on the agreement of SGC to fund substantial improvements to Scott Park from this fund. This would include removing the hard court and installing a floodlit multi-use games area adjacent to the pavilion, upgrading both sets of changing facilities, constructing new cricket nets and installing floodlighting for the main pitch. It was hoped that matched funding could be obtained from other sources by local sports clubs to rebuild the pavilion to create an indoor sports and hospitality area.

The Committee welcomed this development and noted that further information on the release of the funding was awaited. It was also noted that the Council would be responsible for maintaining the new facilities and that costs for maintaining the multi-use games area would be obtained from the suppliers.

6. Our Place project

The Committee was pleased to hear that £8,000 funding had been received by the Council for a project to be run by Southern Brooks Community Partnerships to involve local people in improving green spaces in Patchway for community use and benefit. A worker had been appointed to start in October and three sites had been identified: the garden at the rear of the Youth Centre; the raised beds at The Parade (project in conjunction with Merlin Housing); disused allotment plots at Blakeney Road. It was noted that regular reports would be given to the Council.

7. Groundsmen's Reports

The Report was circulated and discussed and is attached to the Minutes. The Committee was pleased to note that Patchway Town FC had expressed thanks to the groundstaff for the excellent condition of the main pitch.

8. Matters raised by Members or Clerk

- a) Merlin Housing grass cutting
Several Councillors had received complaints from residents that Merlin were proposing to charge for grass cutting outside properties of their tenants. It was noted that a meeting was being arranged shortly with Merlin.
- b) Bevington Close & Durban Road
Cllr. Martin asked if the groundstaff could check with woods adjacent to Bevington for dumped rubbish. Cllr. Cottrell reported dumped rubbish in the lane behind Durban Road.
- c) Gorse Covert
A resident had sent a photograph of burnt rubbish by the teen shelter at Gorse Covert and asked if the shelter could be removed. The Committee did not agree to this request but asked if the Police and detached youth workers could be asked to patrol the area in the evenings to deter anti-social behaviour.
- d) Charlton Hayes Cultivate Project
The Clerk reminded Councillors of an event at the Ringsfield Lane temporary green to involve residents in growing workshops to be held on Saturday 26 September from 11am -2 pm.
- e) Ground investigations at The Tumps
Network Rail had requested permission to carry out ground investigations in preparation for work in the tunnel to electrify the railway line. Any damage would be made good and the Committee agreed to grant access.

9. Date of next meeting

It was noted that the next meeting would be held on Thursday 20 October at 7.30 p.m. at Callicroft House.