

PATCHWAY TOWN COUNCIL

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

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

1. Apologies

There were no apologies for absence.

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 15 September 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

A sketch by the RBL for the positioning of the parade in the car park at Scott Park during the Remembrance Parade in November was passed round the Committee for information. It was noted that on Sunday 15 November there would be no football in the morning and the main gate of the Park would be locked but the double gate leading into the car park would be opened for the parade to enter.

b) Barriers to replace kissing gate for disabled access

The Committee noted that directions had been sent to Councillors of a site at Warmley Forest Path where the Woodstock Large Mobility Kissing Gate, which could be fully opened with a Radar key to allow larger mobility wheelchairs to use it, was installed. So far, no Councillor had visited the site and discussion was postponed until the next meeting to give the opportunity for Members to see the gate in operation. It was noted that in addition to installing the gate in Scott Park, it would be necessary to alter the fencing on each side.

- c) Gorse Covert Repairs
The Committee noted that Urban Recreation had repaired the teen shelter and that repairs to the zip wire and fitness equipment were ongoing. The Clerk had asked the police and detached youth workers to increase their patrols in the area to deter anti-social behaviour.
- d) s106 funding from Charlton Hayes for Scott Park
The Committee discussed progressing this project. Cllr. Loveridge reported that he had contacted Stella Sports for more information on the cricket nets and it was agreed that members of the Committee should visit recently installed MUGAs to understand more about installation and maintenance of these artificial surfaces. It was pointed out that part of the project was to extend the pavilion to provide better changing facilities, including indoor space, and also that the Council wished to extend the memorial garden when the Community Transport office was demolished. It was agreed to keep this item on the agenda for future meetings so that strategic planning could be kept under review.

5. Our Place project

The Committee was pleased to hear that on 22 October there would be a joint Environmental Action Day on The Parade when the Town Council staff would join staff from Street Care and Merlin Housing to tidy up the area. It was agreed that this would be a good opportunity to put up anti-dog fouling posters round the area.

The worker from the Our Place Project would be engaging with members of the public during the day to stimulate interest in planting out two of the raised beds at The Parade as well as disused allotment plots at Blakeney Road. The Committee noted that Our Place would be using the community room at Blakeney Road allotments as a base from which to run a project to involve young families in planting out small sections of allotment plots.

A letter had been received from Lorne Richardson, Chairman of Blakeney Road allotments association, asking if the Council would pay for repairs to the leaking roof of one of the metal containers so that the allotments equipment could be returned to storage in the container. At present he was having to use the community room for storage as the container was too wet. The Committee agreed to take £840 from the Parks & Open Spaces budget to pay for this repair in order to increase activity in the allotments.

The Committee noted that the Men in Sheds project was proposing to relocate to Blakeney Road allotments to be part of the Our Place project. Four Towns & Vale Link Community Transport had offered Men in Sheds one of the portable units of their office to use as a workshop. At present they were using the pavilion at Scott Park.

It was also noted that at the next meeting of the Committee the representatives of both allotment sites would be attending so the Our Place project could be discussed further.

6. Groundsmen's Reports

The Report was circulated and discussed and is attached to the Minutes.

7. Matters raised by Members or Clerk

a) Christmas lights

It was agreed that Christmas lights would be erected in the same sites as usual this year but that in future years consideration should be given to an extension of the lights in Charlton Boulevard which would soon be completed between Highwood Road and the A38.

b) Best Kept Gardens Competition

Cllr. Gordon suggested that, to increase civic pride, this competition could be extended to include the opening of winning gardens to the public with a donation for charity, similar to the national scheme. It was agreed to refer this suggestion to the Festival Committee.

8. Date of next meeting

It was noted that the next meeting would be held on Thursday 17 November at 6.30 p.m. at Callicroft House and that the meeting would commence with discussion with both allotment sites about their plans for the next financial year.