

PATCHWAY TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Parks & Open Spaces Committee held on 19th July 2016 at Callicroft House, Rodway Road, Patchway.

Present: Cllrs. P. Cottrell (in the Chair)
E.Orpen
R. Loveridge
E. Martin
R. Messenger
P.Coleman
J. Butler

1. Apologies

No apologies for absence were received.

2. Declarations of Interest

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

3. Minutes of Parks & Open Spaces Committee

The minutes of the meeting held on 21 June were agreed and signed by the Chairman, proposed Cllr. Orpen, seconded Cllr.Martin

4. Matters arising from the Minutes

a) Security at Scott Park Sheds

The committee noted the work that had been done to increase the security at the shed in Scott Park to prevent a reoccurrence of the break in. It was suggested that the local residents be informed of the installation of the anti-intruder siren that will be fitted next week. It was agreed that this could cause a fright to residents if they were not made aware of its presence.

b) Kissing Gate and Fencing Work

The committee were pleased that the kissing gate had been installed and noted that they had already heard positive feedback from residents who had used it. The committee were happy with the ongoing work on the fencing and high wire at Scott Park

C) Survey of Park

The Deputy Clerk passed around the three quotations to survey the Park. The committee agreed that the project had taken much longer than expected to get started and that it was important to speed the process up. Cllr. Loveridge proposed that Clifton Surveys were awarded the job of surveying the park and that they should be instructed to act immediately. This was seconded by Cllr. Orpen. This was carried unanimously. Councillors agreed that the Surveyor should be asked to recommend three architects to provide quotations for the next stage of the development. Cllr. Loveridge proposed that a working party be set up to liaise with the surveyor/architects and to try and get as much work done as possible before the next council meeting in September. This proposal was seconded by Cllr. Orpen. The vote was carried unanimously in favour. It was noted that the working party should be made up of no more than 4 councillors to try and minimise disagreement. The committee agreed that the working party would be made up of Cllrs. Loveridge, Martin, Coleman and Butler. Cllr. Orpen proposed that it be agreed and noted that the working party will be disbanded immediately on completion of the project. This was seconded by Cllr. Loveridge and carried unanimously in the vote. The committee discussed the possibility of calling an emergency meeting during the summer recess to agree to commission the successful tender from the three architects to proceed with work in designing the Scott Park development. The committee asked the Deputy Clerk to act as soon as possible on getting the surveyor instructed.

5. Groundsman's Report

The report was circulated and discussed and is attached to the minutes.

The Committee noted the information about the work done to ready the park for the Patchway Community Fair. Cllr. Orpen asked the Deputy Clerk to pass on the Council's thanks to the Groundsmen for the work they did both before, during and after the Community Fair.

The committee noted the suggestion that the second gate at Scott Park be left open to allow for easier traffic flow but did not agree that this should be done. The committee suggested that the gate be shut and this item brought up again at a later meeting. On inspection of the gate later in the evening, it was agreed that the drop is too high for the gate to be left open and that it also may cause inconvenience/nuisance to local residents if left open.

7. Other matters

Cllr. Orpen informed the committee that she had been made aware of two men camping in Scott Park overnight on Friday 15th June and left on the Saturday morning. Cllr Orpen asked if anyone had given them permission to do this. The deputy confirmed that no one had given permission. The committee asked the Deputy if the office could make some enquiries regarding this. Cllr Coleman asked if there was adequate signage in the park discouraging camping.

Following the meeting, the committee visited Scott Park to view the options for positioning the memorial bench that has been provided in honour of the late Mr Beard. The deputy clerk noted the preferred position. The committee noted that some of the plants in the garden may need to be split to improve the quality of the beds. It was also suggested that Men in Sheds be approached with a view to them refurbishing the existing wooden bench if new benches provided by the Legion and Fleet air arm were not forthcoming.

8. Date of next meeting

The next meeting of the Committee would be held on Tuesday 20 September at 7.30 p.m. at Callicroft House.