

PATCHWAY TOWN COUNCIL

**Minutes of a meeting of the Parks & Open Spaces Committee held on
15 November 2016 at Callicroft House, Rodway Road, Patchway.**

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

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

1. Presentation by allotment associations

Pretoria Road

It was noted and there were 6 half plots empty but that there were 4 names on the waiting list. The Association thanked the Council for their help with the water collection system. Next year they would like to create a new car park along the fence line at the rear of Pretoria Road. At present they only had parking for 7-8 cars which was insufficient. If the Council were willing to renew the boundary fence next year at the rear of Pretoria and create a double gate, it would be possible to create 20 more parking places. This would encourage more people from Charlton Hayes to take plots on the site. The plan would be to lay a membrane and roll scalplings to keep the price down. One quotation for £3,800 had been obtained so far.

It was noted that there were still plenty of plots grassed over for future development.

A rent cheque for £1,541.20 and the accounts for the past year were given to the Clerk.

Blakeney Road

Mr. Richardson reported that there were 42 plots at the site and that at present 16 half plots were empty. The Association thanked the Council for repairing the roofs of the storage containers on the site. They now had a water collection system connected to the guttering and 7x1000 litre water containers. The Association did not wish to ask for any expenditure next year.

The site was now shared with Men in Sheds and the Community Allotment project, which led to more use of the site. The Council was paying for the additional electricity. The Men in Sheds project had recently obtained a grant to lay concrete slabs in front of two of their portakabins, creating an outdoor working surface. They hoped to obtain an additional container for wood storage through the BMX Club.

The Chairman thanked the allotments' representatives for their attendance and reports and they then left the meeting.

2. Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr. Mills.

3. Declarations of Interest

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

4. Minutes of Parks & Open Spaces Committee

The minutes of the meeting held on 18 October were agreed and signed by the Chairman.

5. Matters arising from the Minutes

a) Memorial Garden

It was noted that the area surrounding the war memorial had been tidied in preparation for the Remembrance Parade on Sunday 20 November. Work had been carried out to remove the kerb stones and create a ramp so that the parade could enter the middle gate into the car park more safely.

Arrangements were also to be made with the Club to fence off the middle section of the car park on Saturday so that there would not be parked cars in the area to be used by the parade on Sunday.

The Committee noted that the Fleet Air Arm Association had paid for a World War II metal bench for the Memorial Garden. It was hoped that the Legion would be able to pay for a bench to commemorate WWI.

It was noted that it was hoped to have a cost for engraving names of the fallen of both World Wars on marble plaques soon. It was suggested that an alternative price for reconstructed marble should also be obtained.

6. Multi-Use Games Area in Scott Park

The Committee noted that the Council had now endorsed the decision to proceed with this project and considered four quotations which had been obtained to install a MUGA measuring 35x50m adjacent to the pavilion in Scott Park, the surface to be sand based with a shock pad.

As it was not clear that the four companies had quoted on the same specification, it was agreed to postpone a decision to the Finance Committee and that each company should be asked to re-quote on the following specification and arrange to visit the site with the groundsman:

1. To remove the old hard court and dispose of the arisings if these could not be used as a base for the new court. Replace with soil from new site and seed.
2. To remove top soil and sub soil from new court site and store for re-use.
3. Protect site and machinery throughout contract.
4. Lay base work and macadam surface and connect to existing drains.
5. Install wet pour rubber shock pad 15mm thick.
6. Install 40mm 3G artificial grass surface with line markings for football and rugby
7. Erect heavy duty fencing 3m high with 1 vehicular gate and 2 pedestrian gates.
8. Install 8 floodlights: 2 prices, either re-using existing columns to be removed from old hard court or supplying new columns and connect to existing supply. Specification of LED lights to be given.
9. To construct a two-bay netted practice facility for cricket at another site in the park, using any surplus material from the other sites to construct the base.
10. Leave site tidy and reinstate any damage to surrounding area.
11. Price to include a full site survey before commencement.

It was also agreed that the Clerk would contact the Planning Department and Merlin Housing in advance of the information being available for a formal planning application.

It was agreed that a report on the project would be available for the January meeting of the Scott Park Advisory Committee so that the Community Sports Association could be kept informed of developments.

7. Discussion on budget for Parks & Open Spaces for 2017-18

The Committee considered a draft budget for Scott Park and made various amendments, taking into consideration additional maintenance requirements for the MUGA and the erection of high netting behind the bungalows in Coniston Road. This amended budget is attached to the minutes.

It was not possible to consider the budget for Open Spaces and this would be discussed at the next meeting.

The decision on the construction of a new parking area for Pretoria Road Allotments was held over as this would depend on the prices of the four contractors for removing the existing hard court as it was hoped that some of the old tarmac could be rolled in to form parking spaces. It was noted that a quotation had been obtained from PRS to remove the hard court at a cost of £11,500 and construct 20 parking spaces using this material at the allotment site for £3,800.

The Committee noted that the contingency of £15,000 for the current Parks budget had not been spent during the year and unanimously agreed to request the Finance

Committee to ring-fence this amount for MUGA site preparation in the next financial year. This would include making good the site of the current hard court and reseeding this for a football pitch.

8. Groundsman's Report

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

9. Other matters raised by Members and the Clerk

a) Bus stop removal

The Committee was opposed to the proposal by a developer to SGC that the bus stop at the roundabout end of Coniston Road (towards Bristol) should be moved up the road to the grassed area opposite the dentist in order to provide a parking area in the front garden of 10/12 Coniston Road. It was considered that this new position would be very dangerous to pedestrians due to its proximity to the junction of Coniston and Rodway Roads and that the developer should utilise the long back gardens of these properties for parking and the shared drive for access. Councillors noted that the present site of the bus stop is one a built-out pavement by a zebra crossing which makes it a safe area for pedestrians.

b) Dog fouling

Councillors noted that this was still a problem in many areas of Patchway, but noted that the Clerk had sent a list of problem areas to the Dog Warden.

10. Date of next meeting

It was agreed not to hold a December meeting and that the next meeting would be held on Tuesday 17 January at 8 p.m. at Callicroft House. This meeting would be preceded by the Advisory Committee at 7.30 p.m.