

PATCHWAY TOWN COUNCIL

**Minutes of a meeting of the Parks & Open Spaces Committee held on
17 January 2017 at Callicroft House, Rodway Road, Patchway.**

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

1. Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs. R. Messenger and M. Grotzke.

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 15 November were agreed and signed by the Chairman, proposed Cllr. Gordon, seconded Cllr. Martin.

4. Matters arising from the Minutes

a) Memorial Garden

Councillors were pleased to see the WW2 bench in the office which had been purchased by the Fleet Air Arm Association. The Clerk had sent a letter to the Sports & Social Club asking if they would be willing to purchase a WW1 bench so that both benches could be set in the memorial garden when the weather improved. The Committee was sorry to note that no women were shown on these wartime benches.

It was hoped that a fitting commemoration could be held in Patchway in 2018 as part of the national centenary events for the end of WW1.

b) MUGA and Cricket Nets

It was noted that the progress of this project had been discussed at the Advisory Committee prior to this meeting. It had been noted that planning permission had been applied for and that the preferred contractor was S&C Slatter. Copies of the specification for these facilities would be sent to the Cricket and Football Clubs.

The Committee was not in favour of floodlights for the main pitch but agreed to work together with the Community Sports Association on a feasibility study of the future need for floodlights.

c) 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.

d) Budget for 2017-18

The Committee noted that the Finance Committee had cut some of the recommendations made by the Committee for expenditure in the next financial year.

5. Litter Bins at Gorse Covert

Cllr. Gordon reported that he had observed litter round the field between Swallow Drive and Stroud Road. It was agreed to ask the litter picker to pay particular attention to this area and then to monitor the situation to see whether an additional litter bin was required in this area. It was noted that litter/dog waste bins cost £241.

6. Mower for highway verges

Cllr. Cottrell had requested the Committee to consider the purchase of a Stiga Park front cutting ride on lawnmower for the use of groundstaff and a video was shown to the Committee on the machine's operation. The Clerk reported that the groundstaff had seen this video and read the specification and had reported that, in their opinion, the machine was suitable for a large garden rather than commercial use. The mower was not robust enough for use on the highway and its maximum speed was much less than the other mowers used by the staff.

The Committee then viewed a video of the Ransomes front cutting rotary mower which had previously been discussed and which the groundstaff had recommended after using a hire machine during the summer of 2016. Councillors agreed that it was important to follow the advice of the groundstaff on this matter.

The Committee agreed unanimously, proposed Cllr. Orpen, seconded Cllr. Gordon, to recommend to Council that the Ransomes mower should be purchased in April on a 0% finance package over two years. The cost of the mower was £22,500 and £15,000 would be payable in the first year and £7,500 in the second year.

7. Groundsman's Report

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

8. Other matters raised by Members and the Clerk

Cllr. Orpen reported that SGC had proposed that in future street lights would be converted to LED bulbs and that these could be kept on all night but dimmed after midnight. The Committee welcomed this information.

It was reported that residents had complained of litter in the hedge round the field of Callicroft School. This was the responsibility of the school and the Clerk would ask if this could be cleared.

9. Date of next meeting

It was noted that the next meeting would be held on Tuesday 21 February at 7.30 p.m. at Callicroft House.