

PATCHWAY TOWN COUNCIL

**Minutes of a meeting of the Parks & Open Spaces held on 20 November 2018
at Callicroft House, Rodway Road, Patchway**

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

In attendance: Mr. J. Thomas, Mr. J. Franklin &
Mr. P. Thompson (Patchway Community
Sports Association)

Mr. L. Brooks & Mr. D. Howell, Pretoria Road
Mr. L. Richardson, Blakeney Road

1. Discussion with representatives of Allotment Associations

Pretoria Road

Mr. Brooks reported that the Association had 86 members using 101 half-plots, 4 quarter-plots and 5 raised beds.

6 half-plots and 1 raised bed were vacant.

The site had suffered from a break-in in August with considerable damage to doors and locks. A small amount of petty cash and one cultivator had been stolen.

The Clerk presented the representatives with a cheque for £756, which was the proportion of the claim paid by the insurance company for the damage and loss.

Mr. Howell presented a cheque to the Council for £1,350.50 rent for the year.

The Committee noted that the Association would like to add more water butts at the site to reduce the use of water. They requested a grant from the Council of £600 for a gazebo and water butts.

Blakeney Road

Mr. Richardson reported that 19 full plots and 21 half-plots were taken at present, with 5 plots vacant.

He presented a cheque to the Council for £781 rent for the year.

Mr. Richards thanked the groundstaff for their help in grass cutting during the year.

The Association would like to increase its water harvesting by adding a slanting roof on the community room. Mr. Richardson had obtained one estimate of £1700 but expected he could get a cheaper one. When this work was carried out a few years before on the two containers, the cost was £1000 per building. The Association would like to ask the Council to fund the roof works but it was

suggested that there could be MAF funds remaining for this financial year which could be put towards this cost.

Mr. Richardson also asked whether the Council would be able to help with any future repairs of the community room as this was used by allotment members, Men in Sheds and the community allotment. It was suggested that the Committee should visit the site in the spring to discuss this with the user groups.

The Chairman thanked the allotment representatives for their attendance and contribution and they then left the meeting.

2. Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs. Messenger and Coleman.

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 16 October were agreed and signed by the Chairman, proposed Cllr. Martin, seconded Cllr. Dando.

5. Matters arising from the minutes

a) Sports Development in Scott Park

Cllr. Loveridge reported that Sport England had requested a community users' agreement. The representatives of the Community Sports Association had been working on this document and it was agreed that the Clerk would circulate this to all Councillors for comment before it was submitted to Sport England. It was noted that, while the Town Council had not established a sinking fund for future replacement of the MUGA, it had agreed to maintain the facility. It was agreed that future consideration would be given to establishing a sinking fund when the facility was in place. Cllr. Dando stated that he would speak to the Planning Officer about the long delay in agreeing this application and threaten action under Non-Determination regulations.

b) War Memorial

The Committee noted that, due to an error at the foundry, the metal plates would be delayed by two weeks but that a temporary design had been displayed for the Remembrance Service the previous weekend.

c) Tree Condition Survey

The Committee noted that quotes for tree condition surveys at Scott Park (£250) and the Tumps (£300) had been received from Wotton Tree Consultancy. It was agreed, proposed Cllr. Gordon, seconded Cllr. Martin, to accept these and to ask the consultant to report on any trees which could be worthy of a TPO.

d) Skip hire at Scott Park

The Clerk reported that the Sports and Social Club were satisfied with the service they received from Smiths of Gloucester and it was, therefore, agreed to transfer the Council's contract for skip hire to this company as soon as possible.

6. Proposals for increased security at The Tumps

A report by the Deputy Clerk on costings from two companies on metal barriers to increase security on the Tumps was noted. It was agreed that illustrations of the designs from the two companies should be brought to the Planning & Transport Committee the following week so that a speedy decision could be taken. The costings were £1630 for 6x6 steel posts or £2500 for 8x8 galvanised steel posts. It was also noted that SGC's Anti-Social Behaviour Team were considering fitting a camera on the street light which overlooks the gate to The Tumps in Waterside Drive. It was suggested that a CCTV sign should be erected on the gate. It was suggested that this team be also asked to look at CCTV cameras on the footpath between Brighton Road and Hawthorn Close by the play area in view of anti-social behaviour in this location.

7. Groundsman's Report

The report was circulated, discussed and is attached to these Minutes.

Patchway Town FC thanked the groundstaff for attending to the two issues they had raised at the last meeting.

The Clerk reported that a new contractor was being used this year for the winter servicing of the large machinery as their prices were lower than TH White. This company, AJ Mowers, was used by the Cricket Club for their machinery service.

8. Discussion of proposals for new projects for next financial year and proposed draft budget for 2019-20

The Committee considered various suggestions made for projects for the next financial year. These included the following:

Lighting for paths in Scott Park

A quotation from the SGC Street Lighting Engineer, following a site visit, was noted. The engineer had suggested that a lighting cable should be run from the lighting columns in the car park. The cost to install 5 lamps from the car park to the bend in the path at Longney Place would be £13,000. It was agreed to arrange a site visit to discuss the spacing of the posts as Councillors were concerned that there should not be any dark patches along the length of the path.

New play equipment

Proposals had been made by residents for a small slide at Arlingham Way pocket park and a disabled swing for wheelchairs at Scott Park. A price was awaited for the slide, but the Clerk had obtained the price of £12,760 for an Ability Swing with enclosure. Councillors noted that there was already disabled equipment in Scott Park: a roundabout, slide and two swings.

The Committee considered the proposals for the budget for 2019-20 for Parks, Allotments and Open Spaces, and agreed amounts, which are attached to these minutes. The budget proposals would go forward to the Finance Committee. The total for Parks and Playing Fields was £95,450 after subtracting anticipated income. The budget for Allotments was £2,600 and for Open Spaces £6,520.

9. Community Engagement

The Deputy Clerk reported that he had posted a survey on social media asking for residents' preferences on recycling boxes or bags. 3800 people had responded stating that they were happy for the bags to be replaced by 2 boxes.

Councillors were very pleased at this response to this form of community engagement and encouraged the Deputy Clerk to continue with such postings.

10. Other urgent matters

a) Durban Road

Cllr. Cottrell said that he would raise the matter of traffic in Durban Road at the Planning & Transport Committee meeting.

b) Asda Lane

Cllr. Gordon reported that a section of sheet metal was sticking out into the lane from a vacant commercial yard. The Clerk would ask the groundstaff

- if they could make this safe.
- c) Patchway Conservation Group
Cllr. Gordon offered to support efforts to restart the Conservation Group, which had done such good work in Patchway in the past. The Clerk would seek help from the SGC Conservation Officer on this. It was suggested that the Volunteer Centre might be able to recruit new volunteers for this project.
 - d) Steps on Tumps
It was suggested that work be carried out to improve the safety of the steps up to the beacon on The Tumps.
 - e) Quad bike at Bevington play area
Cllr. Martin reported that she had spoken to the police about a quad bike which was using the grass between the play area and woods at Bevington Walk.

11. Date of next meeting

It was noted that the next meeting would be held on Tuesday 18 December at 7.30 pm. at Callicroft House.