

## MINUTES OF THE OPEN SPACES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD AT BANSONS ON 23 FEBRUARY 2017

**PRESENT:**

Councillors:	D. Birch (chair)	J. Battersby	J. Bicknell*
	J. Browning	B. Freeman	L. Mendoza*
	J. Reynolds	B. Vaz	

\*Non committee members

Officers: E Gough (Admin Assistant)

Public: No members of the public were present.

Press: No members of the press were present.

### **79/16 Apologies for absence**

Apologies were received from Cllrs Bolden and Feetham.

### **80/16 Declaration of Disclosable Pecuniary Interest**

Cllr Reynolds declared a non-pecuniary interest in item 85/16, being an allotment tenant  
Cllr Vaz declared a non-pecuniary interest in item 85/16, as his wife is an allotment tenant

### **81/16 Public participation**

No members of the public present.

### **82/16 To agree the minutes of the 15 December 2016**

The minutes of the meeting 15 December 2016 were agreed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

### **83/16 Clerk's Report**

#### **Tesco's Bags of Help funding for allotments**

At the last Open Spaces meeting it was agreed that the Chairman of the Council and the Clerk signed the Terms and Conditions. The Council was advised by Tesco's that the form required two authorised signatories so the form was signed by Councillors Browning and Bicknell.

#### **Cemetery**

The SLCC carried out a survey on the remaining burial spaces nationwide. An article from the SLCC magazine The Clerk (January 2017 edition) is attached for Councillors information.

The water leak has now been repaired by Council staff and the supply has been restored. The Outside Spaces Supervisor has advised that the leak occurred at the stand pipe behind the chapel. He believes that there are no joints between the stand pipe inside the main gates and the stand pipe to the rear of the Chapel to create any further leaks.

#### **Cleaner environment**

EFDC have provided additional new bins for general litter as well as dog waste.

The locations are –

- Footpath between Queensway and Fyfield Rd
- Moreton Rd next to the steps

- Shortlands

The Council has been contacted by Cllr Allen of Kelvedon Hatch Parish Council. KHPC has contacted Mr Pickles MP with concerns regarding fly tipping. A copy of the letter received from Mr Pickles is attached.

#### **Nature Reserve**

The handrail on the footbridge was vandalised and had to be repaired by Council staff costing approx. £100.

#### **Trees**

The promised donation from Ongar Tennis Club for the work to the trees surrounding the tennis courts has been received.

#### **84/16 Finance reports**

The finance report for the committee up to 31 January 2017 was noted by Councillors.

#### ***Cllrs Reynolds and Vaz left the meeting***

#### **85/16 Allotments**

i) To consider an increase in fees with effect from 1 November 2018 and make a recommendation to Finance and Human Resources committee.

It was **PROPOSED** by Cllr Freeman and seconded by Cllr Browning to make a recommendation to Finance and Human Resources committee to increase fees by 6% with effect from 1 November 2018. This increase to be fixed for a period of three years.

VOTE:

For – 4

#### ***Cllrs Reynolds and Vaz re-joined the meeting***

ii) To receive information from ECC on the maintenance of gates and stiles on public footpaths.

At the last Open Spaces committee meeting it was agreed that the Council would effect repairs on the gate.

Councillors noted this information and committee clerk was asked to investigate when the gate would be repaired.

#### **86/16 Cemetery Fees**

To review cemetery fees and make a recommendation to Finance and Human Resources committee. The cemetery fees were last increased in April 2016.

It was **PROPOSED** by Cllr Battersby and seconded by Cllr Browning to make a recommendation to Finance and Human Resources to increase cemetery fees by 5%.

This increase will bring the Council's fees in line with other local Council run cemeteries.

Unanimous vote received.

#### **87/16 Dog Control**

To consider Cllr Reynolds suggestion that the Council makes a Dog Control Order where it would be an offence not to remove faeces and punishable with a substantial fine and agree any action necessary.

It was **PROPOSED** by Cllr Battersby and seconded by Cllr Browning not to pursue the Dog Control Order at this time.

VOTE:

For – 4

Against - 2

### **88/16 Notice Boards**

- i) It was noted that no budget has been allocated for new notice boards for 2017/18.
- ii) Information from EFDC regarding re-badging existing notice boards in the street scene was noted.

Cllr Reynolds suggested that he and the committee clerk assess the existing notice boards that require re-badging. The committee clerk will then obtain quotes for appropriate sized OTC signs to be added to the existing notice boards.

### **89/16 Ongar in Bloom**

- i) To appoint a councillor to the liaison group with Ongar in Bloom.

Cllr Battersby volunteered to join the Ongar in Bloom liaison group following the resignation of Cllr Devonald from the Open Spaces committee.

- ii) To receive update on the proposed planting scheme and consider any necessary action.

Ongar in Bloom's proposed planting scheme was noted and it was agreed to defer this item pending further investigation by the committee clerk.

The committee clerk was asked to circulate to committee members the whole document including the ECC Permission document issued to Ongar Town Council.

Cllr Battersby to arrange a meeting with Ongar in Bloom liaison group to discuss various matters with regard this document.

### **90/16 Tree survey**

- i) To agree to renew the tree survey for the Nature Reserve. It is recommended that surveys should be done every 3 years and will cost approximately £340. The last survey for the Nature Reserve was completed in 2014.

This item to be deferred pending investigation regarding the source of the recommended timescale to renew the tree survey every 3 years.

- ii) To consider tree work at Jubilee Park that was deferred from the Open Spaces meeting on 18 August 2016.

It was **PROPOSED** by Cllr Browning and seconded by Cllr Freeman to complete the tree work at Jubilee Park i.e.

Nos: 24 & 25 – lime trees intruding onto telephone wires

Nos: 18,19,20,21 to crown raise – No.16 to remove branch from over the footpath

Nos: 33,47,48,50,51 to crown raise to make safe over footpaths

The preferred contractor to ensure removal of all brush wood etc. from site.

Unanimous vote received.

**91/16 Play areas**

i) To receive quotes for repairs to play areas (as requested at Open Spaces 15 December 2016).

The quotes from Park Leisure for repairs to Cerizay, Love Lane and Shelley Park play areas were received and noted.

The quote from HAGS/SMP for repairs to Shelley Park play area was received and noted. It was agreed that this company be requested to quote for repairs to Cerizay and Love Lane play areas.

It was agreed that when all quotes were received this item be brought back to the committee for consideration.

ii) To consider quotes for a replacement see saw and a replacement slide at Greensted Road play area (as requested at Open Spaces 15 December 2016).

The quotes from Park Leisure, Playdale and HAGS/SMP were received and noted.

It was agreed that additional quotes be obtained for a more traditional see saw. This item to be brought back to the committee for consideration.

**92/16 Trees at Bansons**

A verbal report was received from the committee clerk for necessary maintenance to trees at Bansons.

It was agreed that the preferred contractor and one other contractor be requested to submit:

a) quote to remove two cherry trees to ground level

b) quote to remove one sycamore

b) quote for reducing one sycamore

(All quotes to include removal of all brush wood and leave site clear).

The meeting closed at 10.00pm

Signed

Chair

Date