

**MINUTES OF THE OPEN SPACES COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD AT BANSONS ON 9 APRIL 2015**

PRESENT: Cllrs A. Wingfield (chair) A. Kaye (vice chair) P. Gode
S. Jackman D. Roberts J. Rushton
B. Surtees

Officer: J. Cook (Deputy Clerk)

Public: No members of the public were present
One member of the press.

103/14 Apologies for absence

No apologies were received.

104/14 Declaration of Disclosable Pecuniary Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

105/14 Public participation

There were no members of the public present.

106/14 To agree the minutes of the Open Spaces committee meeting held on 5 February 2015

The minutes of 5 February 2015 were reviewed and agreed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

107/14 Matters arising from previous committee meeting

There were no matters arising.

108/14 Clerk's Report

Allotments

The tree surgeon had been instructed to remove the trees at Castle St allotments.

Campaign to Protect Rural England (CPRE)

Two CPRE publications, FieldWork and Countryside Voice had been received and were available in the Council office if Councillors wished to see them.

Cemetery

At the Finance committee meeting on 15 January it was agreed not to make any charge for the interment of foetal remains.

High St Planters

It was reported that the planters would be replenished on Sunday 17 May.

Open Spaces Society

The spring edition of the Society's newsletter was available in the Council office if councillors wished to see it.

109/14 Allotments

Cllr A. Kaye and the Deputy Clerk met with representatives of Ongar Allotment and Gardening Society on 20 February 2015. The notes of the meeting were provided.

Councillors noted this information.

110/14 Cemetery

- i) To receive feedback on access to the cemetery

At the Open Spaces meeting on 5 February 2015 it was agreed not to lock the access gates to the cemetery. It was reported that Council staff had not noted any further instances of dog fouling in the cemetery.

Councillors noted this information.

- ii) To consider the removal of the white elm tree

At the Open Spaces meeting on 5 February 2015 Councillors considered the removal of the tree. It was agreed that Cllr Surtees would ascertain whether permission should be sought from the Church of England. Faculties in municipal graveyards usually only extends to graves and memorials, not to the "infrastructure" and grown environment, so there would be no need to consider asking permission.

AGREED

- To remove the tree

111/14 Play areas

- i) To consider the concerns of staff regarding dogs accessing Shelley Park

A large dog had been seen regularly in the park. Councillors considered measures to prevent members of the public taking their dogs into the park.

AGREED

- To place signs at each entrance to the park that no dogs are allowed
- To make Epping Forest District Council Animal Warden aware of the situation

- ii) To note the completion of the new fencing at Greensted Rd play area

It was reported that Council staff had completed the erection of the new fencing at the play area.

AGREED

- To thank Mr Calver who erected the fence for the excellent job

112/14 High St planters

To consider the planting scheme for summer and winter 2015

At the Open Spaces meeting on 5 February 2015 Mr Arthur (OAGS) asked that the committee reconsider the colour of the winter planting.

AGREED

- To keep red planning for summer displays
- To be guided by OAGS on a suitable colour for winter planting
- To thank volunteers from OAGS who carry out the planting on the Council's behalf

113/14 Litter picking

To agree the dates of the litter picking events in 2015

The Council usually organises two events per year.

AGREED

- To hold an event on Saturday 6 June at the southern end of town
- To hold an event on Saturday 14 November at the northern end of town
- To meet and finish at Jubilee Park
- To provide refreshments for the volunteers at the Jubilee Park pavilion

114/14 Manor Square

A letter of application to place advertising banners in Manor Square had been received from Ongar Academy.

Six councillors voted to approve the request and one voted against.

AGREED

- To approve the placement of banners in Manor Square on a temporary basis

115/14 Nature Reserve

- i) To consider replacing the Perspex on the notice board

It was reported that the Perspex on the notice board placed next to the foot bridge has been vandalised and would need to be replaced at a cost of approx. £90 excluding VAT.

AGREED

- Not to repair the board
- To remove the board and use in another location
- The committee to consider the new location at the next scheduled committee meeting

- ii) To consider replacing the weld mesh on the footbridge

The weld mesh on the foot bridge was provided by Countrycare to improve the grip but this has become worn and had to be removed. Councillors considered replacing the mesh or painting the bridge with anti-slip paint. The Open Spaces Supervisor recommended the use of anti-slip paint. The same solution would also apply to the footbridge from Shakletons leading to Jubilee Park and the Scout Hut.

AGREED

- To paint the foot bridges with anti-slip paint

116/14 Open Spaces committee budget 2014/15

Councillors noted the committee budget.

The meeting closed at 8.45 pm

Signed

Chair

Date