

MILBORNE PORT PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Open Spaces and Footpaths Committee Meeting held on Tuesday 18th September 2018 at 7.15pm

Present: Mr P Lock (Chair), Mrs M Lock, Mrs A Flynn, Mr R Douglas and Mr C Laughton

Also Present: Emma Curtis – Parish Clerk
Jeremy Pitman – Tree Warden

Public Question Time:

There were no members of the public in attendance.

1. **Apologies for Absence:** Received from Mr Campbell and Mr Lancaster. Reasons for absence approved
2. **Declarations of Interest:** None received.
3. **Minutes of the Open Spaces and Footpaths Committee Meeting held on Tuesday 17th July 2018** were approved and signed as a true and accurate record of the meeting.
4. **Review and update Action List:** The Action List was reviewed and updated as appropriate. Attention was given to the allotments and the provision of three new water troughs. The Clerk will circulate the updated list following the meeting.
5. **Tree warden report:** Mr Pitman confirmed he had received permission to prune the trees at Church Place and that this would be conducted in late October. The Clerk stated she would write to residents to inform them. Mr Lock questioned whether these trees should be replaced when they die, and it was agreed by all that they should not. The fallen tree at Station Copse was considered and it was agreed to let it lie as an ecological and wildlife friendly habitat but respond to the land owner stating that should he feel so inclined the next time he employs foresters it could then be removed. Mr Pitman commented that the beech tree at Station Copse had gotten worse with two types of fungus. The Clerk asked him to put a tree report together for the October meeting along with a quote for felling for consideration by the Committee as she was concerned over its safety in the winter months. Mr Lock stated it may be a good idea to add a budget for tree maintenance in next years budget. Mrs Flynn commented that a large branch had fallen in a field privately owned to the left of Vartenams Hill. Mr Pitman stated he had seen the branch and it did not appear to be unsafe. Mrs Flynn reported that a large branch had fallen near Three Arch Bridge and should be removed. The Clerk confirmed she would instruct the Handyman to remove the branch.
Action – Clerk to write to Church Place residents, Mr Pitman to produce report and quote for felling tree and Clerk to instruct Handyman to remove branch.
6. **Allotments – to include water troughs, possible community plot and review of Tenancy Agreement:** The water troughs item was considered during agenda item 4. The Clerk stated she had received a request from the doctor's surgery regarding a possible community allotment plot to help bereaved and lonely residents. All Committee members felt this was a super

idea and gave permission for the Clerk to proceed with arranging a plot. Mrs Flynn noted that this area may have been an option for a dog walking site, Mrs Lock disagreed. The Tenancy Agreement was reviewed with a small amendment made. To conclude, the Clerk stated she had received a request to half allotment plot 28 into two halves. Committee members agreed with this request.

Action – Clerk to meet with Health Coach from doctors surgery regarding community plot, update Tenancy Agreement and split plot 28 into two halves.

7. **Cemetery and Churchyard:** No update received
8. **Station Copse Community Woodland:** Station Copse had been considered during agenda item 5. However, Mr Lock commented that he would be speaking with the gentleman volunteer who maintains the copse regarding donated bulbs.
9. **The Clump, The Ball Court and The Grove:** No update received. However, Mr Lock stated that the roses in The Grove Garden had died and sought approval to purchase some new shrubs. This was approved.
10. **Play Area updates:** No report received for Springfield Road Play Area. Clerk to chase Mr Lockey to confirm he is still happy to complete the play area reports. Mrs Flynn voiced concerns about Gainsborough Play Area including the overgrown hedge and cleanliness of some of the equipment due to birds mess. She reported that the repairs to the skate ramps still had not been conducted and that the skate ramps themselves were looking scruffy. The Clerk suggested that once the repairs had been conducted she could instruct the Handyman to give the ramps a coat of paint and said she would search for professional cleaners to give the equipment a thorough clean. Mrs Flynn questioned where the strap for the disability swing was and whether the Clerk had it in the office. The Clerk confirmed she would chase the company and ask where the strap had been left as it had not been passed to the Parish Council. To conclude, Mrs Flynn stated that a young resident had completed a report on the Gainsborough Play Area for his Duke of Edinburgh award and suggested that he came and presented to the Committee at the next meeting. This was agreed by all. Mr Pitman suggested that the kicking wall at the Playing Fields was painted in a timber preservative. Mr Laughton volunteered to undertake this task.
Action – Clerk to contact Mr Lockey, chase up skate park ramp repairs, ask Handyman to paint skate ramps, search for a professional cleaning company, chase the mirage disability swing strap and add presentation to next agenda. Mr Laughton to paint kicking wall with timber preservative.
11. **Update on footpaths and any issues arising:** The Clerk confirmed that the diversion of the footpath through the Playing Fields was finally being undertaken. Mrs Lock voiced her frustration that the process was first started in December 2013 and had taken Somerset County Council nearly five years to process. Mrs Lock stated that another resident had come forward to Adopt a Footpath and that she would be putting an article in the parish magazine. Mrs Lock mentioned that the WI were still looking at updating the walking leaflets and Mr Laughton suggested that once all blue plaques were fitted a blue plaque walk could be produced.

12. The date of the next **Open Spaces and Footpaths Committee Meeting** was confirmed as **Tuesday 16th October 2018**.

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