

## MILBORNE PORT PARISH COUNCIL

### Minutes of the Open Spaces and Footpaths Committee meeting held on Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> March 2018 at 7pm at the Town Hall

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

**Also Present:** Mr J Pitman – Tree Warden

1. **Apologies for Absence:** Received from Emma Curtis, Parish Clerk.
2. **Declarations of Interest:** None received
3. **Minutes of the Open Spaces and Footpaths Committee Meeting held on Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> January 2018** were approved and signed as an accurate record of the meeting.
4. **Review and update Action List:** The Action List was updated in detail. The Clerk was requested to update the Action List and distribute following the meeting.
5. **Tree warden report:** Station Copse is in a good condition. Tree at Three Arch Bridge has been flailed. Discussion about tree owner's responsibilities, overhanging branches and vandalised trees.
6. **Allotments:** Ranger has cut the grass at the top of the allotments which has revealed a spare abandoned piece of land. Discussion about making use of this land either as a type of orchard or an extension to the Gainsborough Play Area or as a school allotment plot. The Committee are concerned about the underuse of the top area of allotments and feel it should be made of use. Mrs Lock and Mr Laughton to discuss possibilities with the Headteacher of the school and Clerk requested to advertise any vacant plots. Comments made about the water troughs leaking in the bad weather.
7. **Cemetery and Churchyard:** The new Churchyard pathways are now completed. Vicar has confirmed she is happy with the work. Mr Lock commented he felt he didn't think the pathway was compacted enough. Castle Gardens are due imminently to plant up the memorial cremation plot in the Churchyard. No report on the cemetery other than Mr Lock commenting that a volunteer is still taking good care of it. Mr Laughton suggested dog waste bag dispensers may be installed rather than tying bags on the gate. Mrs Flynn provided information about research she had conducted about dog waste bags.
8. **Station Copse Community Woodland:** Mr Pitman commented that he had been up recently and the trees appeared in good condition with new buds. Mr Lock confirmed the grass would not be cut again until the autumn.
9. **The Clump, The Ball Court and The Grove:** Mr Lock stated that the Royal British Legion want to hold a ceremony in May to rededicate the Ball Court and he felt that they should make a contribution to enhancing the area such as a tree or flowering shrubs. The Committee discussed the best type of tree. Mr Pitman offered to look for a suitable tree and Mrs Lock will speak to Phil Poulton from SSDC. Mr Lock to purchase a can of creosote to put around the base of the posts in The Ball Court and The Grove Garden.

- 10. Play Area updates:** Mrs Flynn stated that she and Mr Campbell had recently been to the Gainsborough Play Area to look at the skate park ramps and that Mr Campbell had prepared a specification to gain quotations for repairs which the Clerk has sent to contractors for tender. A quotation has also been prepared and sent out for the pot holes in East Street Car Park. The ownership and layout of East Street Car Park was also discussed. The Clerk was requested to ask the Handyman to do a regular inspection of the Springfield Road Play Area and clean when required. Mr Pitman suggested the kicking wall also be coated in creosote.
- 11. Update on footpaths and any issues arising:** Mrs Lock stated it had been three years since the request for the footpath in the playing fields to be re-routed was Submitted and despite chasing up the Clerk rarely gets a response. Mrs Lock suggested she may write herself to the department. Mrs Flynn commented that three years for no progress to be made was unacceptable. It was agreed that Mrs Lock would draft a letter to be signed by the committee and the dog fouling working party. Mr Douglas suggested we ask our District Councillor to get involved in expediting the process. It was agreed to speak to Eve Wynn's superior. Mrs Lock stated that she had received a volunteer to Adopt a Footpath and would continue trying to promote the scheme.
- 12. The date of the next Open Spaces and Footpaths Committee Meeting** was confirmed as **Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> April 2018.**