

MILBORNE PORT PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Open Spaces and Footpaths Committee held on Tuesday 20th June 2017 at 7.30pm

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

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

Public Question Time

There were no members of the public in attendance

1. **Election of Chairman for the year 2017/18:** Mrs Flynn nominated Mr Lock, this was seconded by Mr Lockey with unanimous approval for this nomination. Mr Lock accepted his nomination and was elected Chairman.
2. **Apologise for Absence:** None received
3. **Declarations of Interest:** Received from Mr Biss, agenda item 7, *allotment holder*.
4. **Minutes of the Open Spaces and Footpaths Committee Meeting held on Tuesday 18th April 2017** were approved and signed as an accurate record of the meeting.
5. **Review and update Action List:** The Action List was reviewed and updated accordingly. Mrs Flynn updated the Committee about progress made on the new playing facilities for the Gainsborough Play Area and that these would be presented in full at the next Full Council Meeting. It was agreed to remove the compost toilet for the allotments for this current financial year. The Clerk was requested to circulate the updated Action List following the meeting.
6. **Tree Warden Report:** Mr Pitman had nothing specific to report, however he did state that most of the trees under Parish Council care were in good condition apart from the one previously reported at Station Copse. Mr Pitman stated that he was planning to walk around the village soon and find trees which may require a TPO. Mr Pitman reported that a Willow Tree with a TPO had been removed at Swatchford and it appeared that no permission had been granted. It was agreed that the Clerk would report this to Phil Poulton at SSDC. Mr Pitman reported that the ash trees inside the Gainsborough Play Area were in good condition.
Action – Clerk to report removal of Willow Tree to Phil Poulton at SSDC.
7. **Allotments:** Mr Lock reported that the ranger had strimmed some of the allotments. Mr Biss commented that more vacant allotments needed strimming and that some allotment holders required warning letters as their allotments had not been tended. Mr Biss mentioned that it would be a good idea to install a water tap at the allotments, especially during the very hot weather which had occurred recently and all agreed in favour of Mr Biss setting this task in motion and arranging for a water tap to be fitted.
Action – Clerk to write to allotment holders, arrange strimming of vacant plots and Mr Biss to arrange for a water tap to be installed.

- 8. Cemetery and Churchyard:** Mr Lock reported that Reverend Godfrey had asked for assistance in removing ivy from the yew trees covering the Medlycott Mausoleum. It was agreed that although the Council could arrange for assistance with this, it would be respectful to seek approval from the Medlycott family, so the Clerk was requested to make contact. Mr Lock commented that the grass cutting at the cemetery had changed days to coincide with the grass cutting at the playing fields. Mr Lockey asked what was happening with the dumped pallets at the cemetery as they looked unsightly and Mr Lock replied that these were disposed of in a bonfire shortly.
Action – Clerk to contact the Medlycott family regarding the family mausoleum and removing the ivy.
- 9. Community Woodland:** It was reported that Mr Spencer had attempted to remove some of the nettles in the woodland. The Clerk was requested to ask K M Dikes to cut the nettles in August and write to Mr Spencer to inform him.
Action – Clerk to instruct K M Dike and write to Mr Spencer.
- 10. The Clump, The Ball Court and The Grove:** It was noted that the handyman had not yet repaired the wooden posts at The Grove and that as the wall had now been damaged it would be best to instruct a builder to complete the repair works. Mr Lock confirmed he would provide the Clerk with a photo of the damage and the Clerk would seek quotations for the work. Mr Laughton mentioned that the path near Church House needed clearing and that he would be happy to assist the ranger with this.
Action – Clerk to request quotes for the wall and post repair work and Mr Laughton to assist the ranger clearing the path.
- 11. Play Area Updates:** Mrs Flynn reported that a lot of rubbish had been left at the Gainsborough play area on numerous occasions and the bins had been overflowing. It was agreed by all to proceed with the purchase of a new fire proof bin. Mrs Flynn also mentioned that a couple of fires appeared to have taken place at the skate park.
Mr Lockey reported that the roundabout at Springfield Road play area required a new coat of paint and that he was happy to undertake this work. Mr Lockey asked when the tree guards on the saplings could be removed, and Mr Pitman commented that they could probably now be removed. Mr Lockey stated he was happy to remove them. Mr Lock commented that the dead memorial trees at the Playing Fields were not very attractive and Mr Lock confirmed that he would take this to the next Football Club Committee Meeting.
Action – Clerk to order new bin and Mr Lockey to paint roundabout and remove tree guards.
- 12. Update on footpaths and any issues arising:** Mrs Lock confirmed that she and the Clerk had had a meeting with Eve Wynn from SCC Rights of Way department to discuss the many issues with footpaths in the village. Following this meeting it was concluded that the Parish Council contact the owner of Canon Court Farm to suggest re-routing the footpath which runs through the farm due to many complaints about the gate being locked. Mr Biss and Mrs Lock confirmed they would speak with the farm owner. Mrs Lock commented that the entrance to the footpath at East Street was incorrectly identified, and that this needed addressing. It was confirmed that SCC would arrange for the footpath between the new housing developments down Wheathill Lane to be cut twice yearly. Mrs Lock confirmed that the footpath at

Wheathill Lane, leading into the playing fields would have the kissing gate removed and replaced with a gate with access for pushchairs and wheelchairs. The Clerk was asked to request that the same was added at the other end of the footpath. To conclude, Mrs Lock confirmed that the stile across the gallop going in to Crendle Woods would be replaced. Ms Wynn had also confirmed that pedestrians had the right of way over the gallop and that the landowner had been advised not to place the gallop over the footpath but he had chosen to do so regardless. The Clerk was asked to request whether a sign could be installed indicating that walkers have the right of way. Mrs Flynn mentioned that a new wide gate had been installed at the top of a footpath at Wick Road, but that a large stone was blocking the exit further down the footpath and the Clerk was requested to find out why.

Action – Clerk to report all issues to Eve Wynn

- 13. The date of the next Open Spaces and Footpaths Committee meeting was confirmed as Tuesday 18th July 2017.**