

MILBORNE PORT PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Open Spaces Committee Meeting held on Tuesday 6th October at 7pm at the Town Hall

Present: Mr P Lock (Chair), Mr M Ritchie, Mrs P Alexander, Mr C Laughton, Mr I Stephenson, Mr R Lockey, Mr R Biss and Mrs R Birch

Also Present: Emma Curtis – Clerk

Public Question Time

There were no members of the public in attendance.

1. **Apologies for Absence:** Received from Mr K Jones – Tree Warden
2. **Declarations of Interest:** Received from Mr Biss, Mrs Alexander and Mr Stephenson, agenda item 6, *allotment holders*
3. **Minutes of the Open Spaces Committee Meeting held on Tuesday 7th July 2015** were agreed and signed as a true and accurate record of the meeting.
4. **Action List**
The Action List was discussed and updated accordingly. The Clerk will update and distribute prior to the next Open Spaces Committee Meeting.
5. **Allotments**
Mr Biss confirmed that the Clerk had sent letters out to those allotment holders who had been neglecting their allotments and that the majority of them had now been maintained. Mr Biss also commented that he had let a spare half allotment free of charge until the end of the year as it was in terrible condition. Mr Biss stated he was still in the process of gaining quotations for the new water tanks at the allotments for both supply and installation and would have figures within the next month.
6. **Cemetery and Churchyard Maintenance**
The Clerk informed the Committee that she and Mr Biss had been on a very useful and informative Cemetery Management Course run by the Institute of Cemetery and Crematorium Management. The Clerk commented that a lot of new procedures and protocols needed producing by the Parish Council and that she would work on these over the new few months. Mr Biss also mentioned that the Clerk required more support when arranging funerals in the cemetery and himself and Mr Stephenson volunteered to assist.

It was agreed that when the bequeathed sum of £10,000 is passed to the Parish Council that the pathways at the cemetery, along with the gate, needed maintenance work and the Clerk was asked to begin gaining quotations for this work from Newton Forge for the cemetery gates and Marris Evans of Lilington Plant for the pathways.

Mr Lock mentioned that the South West in Bloom judges has commented that the Churchyard was a bit bland and wild in parts and needed some attention. Mr Lock confirmed he would arrange a meeting with the Church Council.

Action – Clerk to commence work on new procedures and protocol for cemetery management and commence gaining quotations for work at the cemetery and Mr Lock to arrange a meeting with the Church Council.

7. Children’s Play Areas/Recreation Grounds

Mr Lockey reported that there were no major issues with Springfield Play Area other than the usual issue of litter. Mr Lockey stated that at some time in the future he would like to see the removal of the wooden shack which is covered in graffiti. A discussion took place about what could replace the shack and Mr Lockey was asked to gather some ideas and quotations. Mr Laughton commented that no progress had been made with the new kicking wall which the Parish Council had been given a Health and Wellbeing Grant for. Mr Laughton agreed to follow this up with the Playing Fields Management Committee in order to find a suitable location for the wall and hire a contractor to build the wall.

Mrs Birch reported that there was an issue with littering at Gainsborough Play Area also and asked what could be done as a deterrent. It was suggested that a sign could be placed showing the recognition of effort which was put in to providing the park and that users should take pride in the park and not litter it. This was agreed as a good idea and the Clerk was asked to contact Clive Lamb in order to produce a sign. Mrs Birch also suggested that the Gainsborough Play Area could benefit from a football goal net and the Clerk suggested that this may be a good suggestion to pass to County Councillor William Wallace for the Health and Wellbeing Grant if it qualified.

Action – Mr Laughton to speak with the Playing Fields Management Committee to decide on a suitable location for the kicking wall and hire a contractor and the Clerk to speak with Clive Lamb about a sign for Gainsborough Play Area and pass the kicking wall idea to County Councillor William Wallace.

8. Community Woodland and update from Tree Warden

No update from the Tree Warden however Mr Lockey commented that the woodland was looking well and the trees in good condition. It was also reported that the Millennium Viewpoint sign at the top of East Hill was now completely smashed. It was agreed to review this once the Spirit of Milborne Port entrance sign had been placed to see if the replacement could be something similar.

9. The Clump, Ball Court and The Grove

Mr Lock mentioned that while trimming the rose bush in The Grove, the SSDC Ranger found that the welds had snapped off the arbour and would need repairing. Again it was suggested to speak with Newton Forge. A brief discussion about the tree near Church House took place mentioning that although the tree was hollow Phil Poulton, County Council Arborist, had stated it did not pose imminent danger but needed to be monitored.

10. The date of the next Open Spaces Committee Meeting was confirmed as **Tuesday 5th January 2016.**