

MILBORNE PORT PARISH COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Open Spaces and Footpaths Committee Meeting held on Tuesday 12th
April 2016 at 6.45pm at the Town Hall**

Present: Mr P Lock (Chair), Mrs M Lock, Mr M Ritchie, Mrs A Flynn, Mrs P Alexander and Mr I Stephenson

Also Present: Emma Curtis – Parish Clerk

Public Question Time

There were no members of the public in attendance.

1. **Apologies for Absence:** Received from Mr R Biss, Mr Rob Lockey and Mr K Jones
2. **Declarations of Interest:** None received
3. **Minutes of the Open Spaces and Footpaths Committee Meeting held on Tuesday 15th March 2016** after adding Mr I Stephenson to the list of those present; were agreed and signed as a true and accurate record of the meeting.

4. **Review and update Action List**

The Action List was reviewed and updated accordingly and the Clerk was requested to amend and distribute after the meeting.

5. **Allotments**

No update was received as Mr Biss was absent. However, it was noted that there were some general concerns from allotment holders in regard to the installation of the water troughs and when this would be occurring. Mr Lock confirmed he would speak with Mr Biss and the contractor to get a confirmed date for the work to be completed and then notices would be put up at the allotments as well as on the website.

Action – Mr Lock to speak with Mr Biss and the contractor and confirm with the Clerk the date the work will be taking place in order for notices to be placed.

6. **Cemetery and Churchyard**

Mr Lock confirmed that the pathway and car park work at the cemetery was scheduled to take place in conjunction with the highways work along Wheathill Lane on the 13th and 14th May 2016. Mr Lock commented that the electrical work would need to be completed before these dates and that himself and Mr Watts were following this up with SSE and Strongvox in order to gain quotations for the trenching.

Action – Mr Lock to follow up with SSE

Mr Lock took the opportunity of thanking Derek, partner of Valerie Mead, for painting the cemetery gates. The Clerk was asked to write a letter of thanks and appreciation to Derek.

Action – Clerk to write a letter of thanks and appreciation to Derek from the Parish Council.

Mrs Alexander confirmed that Tony Ferrari was due to inspect the roof of the cemetery chapel shortly and that the Milborne Port History and Heritage Group had

agreed to clean and restore the cemetery chapel including the pews and bier in order for them to use it as a base. It had been agreed that if the History and Heritage Group choose to base themselves in the chapel that the first year would be rental free due to the maintenance works they are willing to undertake.

Mr Lock commented that the Vicar had written an article about the churchyard in a recent edition of the Parish Magazine and that Phil Poulton, Somerset County Council's Tree Warden had sent a written report to the diocese. It was felt that at present, until the church had decided how they wished to proceed with the pathway, that the Parish Council could do no more at this time.

7. Community Woodland and update from Tree Warden

The Clerk circulated two reports; one from the village Tree Warden Kevin Jones and one from Somerset County Council's Tree Warden Phil Poulton. As these reports were quite in depth it was agreed that these reports be taken away and reviewed and for Mr Lock to study the suggested actions in the reports and that these would be discussed at the next meeting. The Clerk was asked to write to the owner of the Holm Oak behind the bus shelter and ask the owner to cut the tree back accordingly as the tree was posing many issues.

Action – Clerk to write to the owner of the Holm Oak

8. The Clump, The Ball Court and The Grove

Mr Lock confirmed that the Parish Ranger would be attending to The Grove Garden lawn and edging during the coming week. It was agreed to speak with Kim Dike about placing either a gradient or some steps along with a hand rail on the slope at The Clump. Mr Lock mentioned that a new stone bench had been installed at The Ball Court and that he had received a letter from Mr Britto whose property neighbours The Ball Court stating that he was happy for any work to be undertaken. Mrs Lock mentioned that eight finger posts had been found in the Cemetery Chapel and that these were going to be reinstated around the village and that SSDC had offered a free planter to go outside the butchers. Mrs Lock also commented that Wayne Pullen had offered to sponsor a new bin outside the butchers to replace the bin that was once there. The Clerk was asked to gain quotations for the new bin and also to contact Somerset Waste Partnership about the emptying of the bin.

Action – Clerk to gain quotations for a new bin and contact Somerset Waste Partnership

9. Consider quotation for the emptying of an extra dog bin at Newtown

The Clerk confirmed the cost of £30.33 to empty an extra dog waste bin at Newtown. All agreed in favour of purchasing a new dog waste bin and for this to be added to the Pet Waste Solutions contract for emptying.

Action – Clerk to purchase a new bin and Mrs Flynn to meet with the handyman to agree on location of the bin. Once installed, the Clerk to add this bin to the Pet Waste Solutions contract.

10. Play Area updates

Due to the resignation of Mrs Birch, the Clerk asked for a volunteer to take over the Gainsborough Play Area inspections. Mrs Flynn volunteered and the Clerk confirmed she would send over the inspection reports. The Clerk confirmed she had recently received the SSDC annual play area inspection reports which had shown a

number of faults which needed to be rectified. The Clerk informed the Committee that these tasks had been forwarded to the handyman to be dealt with.

Action – Clerk to forward Mrs Flynn the play area inspection report.

11. Update on footpaths and any issues arising

Mrs Lock commented that she and the Clerk had met with Eve Wynn recently to discuss footpaths issues in the village and that these were in hand. Mrs Lock requested that any Councillors who walked a footpath frequently report back to her the number of times it had been walked. Mrs Flynn raised a number of maintenance issues along a couple of footpaths in the village and the Clerk confirmed she would report these to Eve Wynn as soon as possible.

Action – Clerk to report footpaths maintenance issues.

12. The date of the next Open Spaces and Footpaths Committee Meeting was confirmed as Tuesday 21st June 2016.

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