

## MILBORNE PORT PARISH COUNCIL

### Minutes of the Open Spaces and Footpaths Committee Meeting held on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> July 2016 at 7.00pm at the Town Hall

**Present:** Mr P Lock (Chair), Mrs M Lock, Mrs A Flynn, Mr R Biss, Mrs P Alexander, Mr I Stephenson and Mr R Lockey  
(In the absence of the Parish Clerk the minutes were taken by Mrs P Alexander)

#### **Public Question Time**

There were no members of the public in attendance.

**1. Apologies for Absence:** None received

**2. Declarations of Interest:** Mr Biss and Mr Stephensen – allotment holders - Item 5

**3. The Minutes of the Open Spaces and Footpaths Committee Meeting** held on Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> June, 2016 were agreed and signed as a true and accurate record of the meeting.

**4. The Action List** was reviewed and updated for later circulation. Mr Lock reported that Rev Godfrey was making headway through Church administration and now had permission to apply for a Faculty. She had also been hard at work liaising with specialist regarding the likely cost of the proposed work. It appeared that the felling of 3 *Cypressis*, 2 *Leylandii* and a large laurel would cost in the region of £1500. The paths could be expensive with one company suggesting a cost of £13,000 (less expensive options could be available) and the Council may be able to apply for a grant from the church of up to £10,000. All options remain open for discussion and review once permission is in place.

**5. Allotments:** Mr Biss reported that several allotment holders had been approached regarding poor maintenance of their plots. One had replied and a second left a message that work would resume once a frozen shoulder had resolved.

**6. Cemetery and Churchyard:** The Churchyard had already been discussed (Minute 4 above). Although the main drive at the cemetery had recently been re-surfaced, the minor paths were in poor condition and weedy. Mr Lock reported that he had asked Kim Dyke contractors to spray these. He would check for progress and again remind the contractors to inform a resident in Henning way before any work was done (they already have contact details for this resident). If whatever new surface is laid in the Churchyard the existing paths would need scraping off and if these scrapings could be used in the cemetery it could reduce the cost at the Churchyard. Mr Biss considered this would not work as the material would simply pack down, as it had done in the Churchyard, and cause the same drainage problems. A Spirit of Milborne Port Committee member had contacts with Stalbridge Building Supplies and might be able to obtain gravel for surfacing which would allow more free drainage.

**7. Community Woodland:** As we need to find a new Tree Warden there was no report to consider. Mrs Alexander commented that she and a friend had rescued a swarm of bees from the gateway at the entrance only a few days ago and everything seemed fine. The dry weather has certainly dried the vehicle pull-in (we previously had a villager complaining of the mud in this area). The rescued bees were very dusty!

**8. The Clump, The Ball Court and The Grove:** The Clump is in need of some restorative work and Mr Lock will again discuss this with Gary Beament who has taken over Kim Dyke's business. The Ball Court and the Grove are at their absolute best having had a concerted effort from a few councillors, our SSDC ranger, Milborne Port Gardening Club and many villagers (some working rather secretly)! Mr Lockey wanted to congratulate all concerned on the appearance of these areas in particularly ready for the South West in Boom inspection.

**9. Play Area update:** In attempting to keep some sort of order in the clerk's office Mrs Alexander had come across two, unfiled inspection reports from earlier this year, one for Springfield and the other for the Gainsborough play areas. These had come to committee and were minuted in April with resolution that the village handyman would be asked to deal with these faults as far as possible. Mrs Alexander could find no record that this had been enacted. It would obviously be serious for us if an accident occurred involving a defect that had been reported to us. Mrs Flynn (Gainsborough) and Mr Lockey (Springfield) agreed to check the items listed and attend to notifying the handyman of any work remaining to be done.

**10. Update on footpaths and any issues arising:** A resident had reported to the office a damaged stile on the footpath from Canon Court Farm. We had replied that we were currently trying to re-route this path with a permissive path starting further along Goldens Lane and would deal with the stile once this was resolved.

Mrs Lock and Mrs Flynn had walked part of the footpath running behind Newtown to Vartnum Hill to check for the best positioning of a new, extra dog-waste bin. The best spot would be to the rear of Nos 33 and 34 Newtown Mrs Lock suggested that it would be courteous to write a letter to the residents of these two houses informing them of the bin placement and the arrangements for its emptying, and hoping this would lead to improvement behind their homes with less dog excrement on the path or in plastic bags in verges and on gateposts. Mrs Flynn reported problems with two gates on the footpath down from Vartnum Hill and the path is very overgrown.

**11. South West in Bloom Judges' visit to the village:** The chief judge was Brenda Wright who had been the second judge last year. This was good as she was able to appreciate that many of the things we had listed for further attention last year had been done and improvements were clearly visible. The second judge was to have been Andy Cole who unfortunately could not come due to a family funeral. The substitute judge was Lesley Jellyman, horticulturalist at SSDC. On the tour route Mr Lock was able to demonstrate much more village involvement than last year with a) the Gardening Club designing planting areas in the Grove and donating plants b) a donated stone bench and plants for large tubs in the Ball Court c) tubs of flowers sponsored by the WI, herb tub sponsored by Wayne Pullen Butchers and flower tubs sponsored by Spirit of Milborne Port at the Primary School. Mrs Lock reported that the judges' visit to the Primary School had gone well and she was pleased that the school was now taking a much more active part.

**12. A Meeting with the new owners of Kim Dyke Landscaping business** had taken place on June 28<sup>th</sup> with Mr Lock and Mrs Alexander. Mr Biss had not been able to attend as confirmation had been sent by e-mail which he had not opened. Mr Lock agreed to telephone once he had arranged a second meeting. The contractors had a copy of the contract, which has a further two years to run, so were fully aware of the extent of their village work. Other areas in the village that seem to be less clearly defined as to their maintenance were also discussed. They are keeping the Kim Dyke trading name although the parent company is Halcyon which is a landscaping business rather than grounds maintenance.

**13. The New Village Rubbish bin** is a replacement for the broken one between the butcher and previous florist shop. Regulations require that the replacement is attached to its own post. The bin and post were recommended by SSDC but the post needs to be sunk 600mm into the ground. This will involve digging under the pavement and we do not know where services may run. Mr Lock will contact Highways for their advice. **The dog waste bin** (see Minute 10 above).

**14. East Street Car Park:** Mr Laughton and Mr Lock had visited the car park re the request from the recent purchasers of No. 55 London Road to enact an older covenant allowing them vehicular access from the car park onto hard-standing already present. As we would only lose half a parking space there seemed little reason to deny the request particularly if the old agreement was legally binding. We assume this all arose during the legal searches during conveyance of the property. Pam Alexander would reply saying we had no objection in principle but would like written assurance from their solicitor that the document granting this right is still legally valid.

**15. Confirm the date of the next Open Spaces and Footpaths Committee Meeting as Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> September 2016.**