

MILBORNE PORT PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Open Spaces and Footpaths Committee Meeting Tuesday 21st March 2017 at 7pm at the Town Hall

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

Also Present: Emma Curtis – Clerk

Public Question Time

There were no members of the public in attendance.

Mr Lock asked the Clerk to read out a letter received from Lord Allen of Ven House, following the Clerk's letter requesting a donation towards the village hanging baskets. The letter stated that Lord Allen would be prepared to help improve the entrance to the village from the Ven House entrance. It was agreed that Mr Biss and Mr Lock would look at the area in question and put a plan together for its improvement and then meet with the landowner.

Mrs Flynn mentioned that a nameless volunteer had kindly put some concrete paving slabs under the footpath at the back of Newtown which had stopped the area flooding and commented that she was very appreciative to whoever had done it. Mrs Flynn also commented that the new dog waste bin in this location had made a massive improvement.

Mr Biss commented that the inside gate at Gainsborough Play Area was not working correctly and would not shut properly. Mr Biss agreed to resolve this issue.

- 1. Apologies for Absence:** Received from Mr C Laughton and Mr J Pitman (Tree Warden)
- 2. Declarations of Interest:** Received from Mr R Biss, agenda item 6, *allotment holder*
- 3. Minutes of the Open Spaces and Footpaths Committee Meeting held on 17th January 2017** were agreed and signed as a true and accurate record of the meeting.
- 4. Review and update Action List:** The Action List was reviewed in detail. The Clerk was requested to update the Action List following the meeting and distribute to committee members.
- 5. Tree Warden report:** No report received as Mr Pitman was absent. However, on his behalf Mrs Flynn mentioned his concerns regarding a beech tree at Station Copse which had two types of fungal growth and may be unsafe. Mr Lock and the Clerk confirmed that they had looked at this tree with Phil Poulton, SSDC Tree Officer who had completed some tests which showed that the wood was sound and currently safe and that Mr Poulton had stated he felt there was many year's life left in the tree. The Clerk commented that Mr Poulton had commented it was not usually good practice using a volunteer tree warden with interests in a commercial business. This was considered by the Committee and it was agreed Mrs Flynn would speak with Mr Pitman regarding a way forward.

6. **Allotments:** No update received but Mr Biss commented that there were a few vacancies still to fill. The Clerk commented she would post again on the Parish Council Facebook page and notice boards and that Mr Oldham had put it on the newsletter on the website.

Action – Clerk to advertise on Facebook and notice boards.

7. **Cemetery and Churchyard:** Mr Lock confirmed that the electrical work at the Cemetery Chapel had been completed, but stated that a user manual for the electrical timers did not appear to have been left. The Clerk was asked to chase this. Mr Biss suggested that the pathways at the Cemetery now be finished, and the Clerk was asked to order some more chippings. Mr Lockety commented that it had been agreed at a previous meeting to stop the furthest pathway just short of the bottom of a path due to a grave being on the edge of the pathway, it was agreed by all to do this and turf that edge of the pathway. Mr Lock commented that a gentleman from Pudbrook had stated that if bee friendly pollinating trees were purchased and planted in the Cemetery then he would be happy to donate towards the cost of the trees. Mr Lock thanked the contractor who completed the work in the Churchyard and commented that most people thought the Churchyard was much improved, however there had been one complaint from a neighbouring resident and another comment about a lime tree being cut down.

Action – Clerk to get a user manual for the electrical timers and Clerk to order more chippings for the Cemetery.

8. **Community Woodland** – No report received.

9. **The Clump, The Ball Court and The Grove:** Mrs Flynn commented that in his report in February, the Tree Warden had expressed concern regarding a tree at The Clump. The Clerk confirmed she would ask SSDC Tree Officer Phil Poulton to look at the tree when he was next passing through the village. Mrs Lock commented that the WI had donated two plants which had been planted in The Ball Court and passed on her thanks. Mr Lock thanked Mrs Smith for the donation of a climbing rose for The Ball Court. At this point, the current year's hanging baskets were discussed. The Clerk was requested to contact Steve Fox at SSDC to place the order for the same amount of hanging baskets as the previous year, commenting that the Council would appreciate his suggestions on planting and colours.

Action – Clerk to contact Phil Poulton regarding the tree at The Clump. Clerk to place the order for hanging baskets with Steve Fox.

10. **Play Area Updates:** Mr Lock reported that the broken fence post at Springfield Play Area was still damaged and needed repairing. The Clerk confirmed she would remind the Handyman. Mrs Flynn commented that a new basketball net for Gainsborough Play Area had not yet been purchased. Mr Lock stated that he had one which may fit, and would check the sizing. Mr Biss confirmed that he would mend the gate at Gainsborough Play Area.

Action – Clerk to remind Handyman about fixing the fence post at Springfield Play Area and Mr Biss to mend the gate at Gainsborough Play Area.

11. Update on Footpaths and any issues arising: Mrs Lock reported that she had had her annual conversation with the Rights of Way Department and commented that the village was still lacking in volunteer footpath wardens. The Clerk reported that after a period of absence, the Rights of Way Officer responsible for Milborne Port was now back at work and that she had confirmed she would deal with all issues reported over the past few months as soon as possible. Mrs Lock requested that the Clerk ask the Rights of Way department for a more specific map covering the footpath at the bottom of East Street. It was also agreed that the Clerk would try and arrange a meeting with Mrs Lock and the Rights of Way Officer to look at the footpath running through Cannon Court Farm. The Clerk also confirmed she would chase up the progress of the rerouting of the footpath through Springfield Recreation Ground.

Action – Clerk to request a more specific map of the footpath at the bottom of East Street, Clerk to arrange a meeting with Mrs Lock and the Rights of Way Officer at Cannon Court and chase up the rerouting of the footpath through Springfield Recreation Ground.

12. The date of the next **Open Spaces and Footpaths Committee Meeting** was confirmed as **Tuesday 18th April 2017.**