

MINUTES of a meeting of the OPEN SPACES COMMITTEE held at 7.45pm on Wednesday 6 September 2017 in the Council Offices, 72 Chapel Hill, Stansted Mountfitchet, Essex

**PRESENT:** Cllr S Dunn (Chairman), Cllrs C Dean, J Hudson, J Kavanagh, R Rands and F Richards

**ATTENDING:** Cllr J O'Brien  
Mrs R Clifford (Clerk)  
Mr T Lloyd (Assistant to the Clerk)  
2 members of the public

**179 TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Cllrs M Caton and V Trundle

**180 TO RECEIVE DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST - none**

**181 TO RECEIVE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 21 JUNE 2017**

The minutes were approved at a Full Council meeting on Wednesday 5 July

**182 MATTERS ARISING**

(112) Network Rail have yet to respond

(114) Lime Tree on the Rec awaiting tree surgeon's action – site visit has been done

(117) UDC have acknowledged receipt of the application. Application is being managed by the Conservation Officer

(118) Details of Survey Monkey to be posted on social media. Direct contact to be made with Forest Hall School and the Youth Centre.

(121) Awaiting a response from Hole Farm on spraying pond

**183 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT - nothing to report**

**184 TREE MATTERS**

A donated tree will be planted on Bentfield Upper Green in October.

A tree donated by the WI located on the junction of High Lane and Cambridge Road is threatened by drainage work linked to the Walpole Farm development. It was agreed this should be relocated to Bentfield Upper Green if the WI agree.

The Clerk reported on concerns about very tall trees near the Brook View cul de sac adjacent to Foresthall Park. It was agreed that getting these trimmed would be a priority once the estate is handed over to the Parish Council and the S.106 funding is received.

The Clerk reported that three oak trees at the cemetery need attention. She will check if there is a TPO and if necessary seek consent to take action.

Cllr Dean raised concerns about a maple tree on The Rec. The Clerk agreed to ask the tree surgeon to inspect it.

Cllr O'Brien reported trees obscuring lights in High Lane. The Clerk will seek action from Essex County Council as they own the trees.

**185 GARDENING CONTRACT**

Gareth from GWB will attend the next meeting. Members were asked to be ready to raise any issues/suggestions with him at the meeting.

**186 LITTER**

The Clerk reported that discussions with UDC to provide containers to store the red rubbish bags had proved fruitless. She will now speak to Lee about constructing some kind of secure area to store the bags to prevent rats getting at them and so they are less of an eyesore. This applies both at St Mary's Church and in the Lower Street car park.

**187 UPDATE ON MEMORIAL GARDENS**

The Assistant to the Clerk reported that phase one had been completed. A number of donations have been received for phase two which will involve restoration work on the War Memorial and possibly some planting work in the side borders.

**188 FOOTPATHS - TO RECEIVE A REPORT FROM MR STILES**

The Clerk drew members' attention to the comment about BR7 and FP34. She is in contact with Essex PRoW and the landowner to discuss appropriate action. It was agreed that a litter pick on Silver Street/Pines Hill would be too hazardous for volunteers. The Clerk will seek action from UDC Highway Rangers.

**189 CEMETERY**

The Clerk reported five interments. Memorials or inscriptions have been approved on the three graves.

**190 FORESTHALL PARK-ADOPTION OF OPEN SPACES**

Solicitors have started the hand over process. We are awaiting a quote from GWB for the remedial work that the developers will be expected to fund prior to hand over.

**191 WINDMILL FIELDS-TO CONSIDER A MATTER RELATING TO FENCING**

The Clerk reported on discussions with a resident in Brook Road in relation to a fence bordering his property and Windmill Fields. Land ownership and liability issues were unclear but it was agreed that the Parish Council would, without accepting liability, look into clearing some of material that had been "fly tipped" and work with the resident to undertake repairs to the fence.

**192 STANSTED IN BLOOM**

GWB will be approached to sponsor next year's event to provide a Winner's Shield to which could be added the names of the winners each year. Gareth may be asked to take part in the judging process.

**193 BIRCHANGER WOOD -** Any reports received will be circulated to members.

Meeting closed 8.30 pm

DRAFT