

MINUTES of a meeting of the OPEN SPACES COMMITTEE held at 7.45pm on Wednesday 22 May 2019 in the Council Offices, 72 Chapel Hill, Stansted Mountfitchet, Essex

**PRESENT:** Cllr D Brett (V Chairman in the Chair), Cllrs M Caton, J Harding, J Hudson, J Kavanagh, F Richards, T Van de Bilt and D Wallace-Jarvis

In the absence of the Chairman, Cllr Brett chaired the meeting.

**ATTENDING:** Cllr J O'Brien  
Mrs R Clifford (Clerk)  
1 member of the public  
1 member of the press

In the absence of the Chairman and with the Vice Chairman running late, it was agreed that Cllr M Caton, Chairman of the Council, should take the Chair for the start of the meeting.

**51 TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from Cllr A Barnes.

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

**53 TO RECEIVE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 10 APRIL 2019**

**RESOLVED** to accept the minutes as a full and accurate record.

**54 MATTERS ARISING - none**

Cllr Brett joined the meeting and took the Chair.

**55 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

Cllr Brett read out a report from Cllr Barnes.

**56 LITTER**

The Clerk reported that UDC would be undertaking a "deep clean" of Chapel Hill on Thursday 23 May.

There have been further occurrences of fly tipping in Pennington Lane.

The Assistant to the Clerk will be asked to get dates for the National Spring Clean and link our village Litter Pick to the national event.

Cllr Kavanagh requested action to cut back brambles that are restricting access to the dog bin at Bentfield Pond.

**57 FOOTPATHS**

Mr Stiles's report had been circulated prior to the meeting.

Cllr Brett requested details of the PPP group. The Assistant to the Clerk will be requested to provide a brief history of the group and attempt to liaise with them to set up a meeting for Cllrs Barnes and Brett to attend.

Cllr Richards raised concerns about the state of the path between Elsenham and Grove Hill. The Clerk said she would raise this with the Highway Rangers as this was on their list following a site visit with them.

**58 CEMETERY****a) INTERMENTS AND MEMORIALS**

A memorial had been approved for the grave of Peggy Pinn. The interment of Jeane Peachey took place on 16 April, Peter Jones on 23 April and Kenneth Brand on 14 May. The interment of Stella Saunders will take place on 24 May, and Jacqueline Worthington on 29 May. 19

**b) TO CONSIDER A TEMPORARY CESSATION OF THE RIGHT TO PRE-PURCHASE A GRAVE**

The Clerk's report explained that the cemetery was nearing full capacity. If, at the time of an interment, families could continue to purchase further graves, then the cemetery will soon be full. After a brief discussion Cllr Richards proposed the following

**RESOLUTION** that a temporary ban be placed on the ability to pre-purchase a grave at the time of an interment until such time as further land becomes available.

Seconded by Cllr Wallace-Jarvis and unanimously agreed.

**59 TREES**

The following were reported:

- A branch has fallen from a maple tree on The Rec. In his capacity as Tree Warden, Cllr Brett had inspected this and considered it was more likely to be due to vandalism than disease. The tree is considered to be in a healthy condition.
- A heavy branch has fallen off the willow tree that overhangs the pond – the Clerk is arranging its removal.
- There are possibly issues with a lime tree in Cooper's Alley, near a property in Cawkell Close which Cllr Brett will investigate. A tree close to the south-bound path from the same location needs to be cut back as it is obscuring the

**60 GARDENING AND GRASS CUTTING:**

The Clerk reported that our contractors were undertaking work in the Memorial Gardens funded by an Affinity Water grant.

The area on the corner of Mountfitchet Road and Church Road is looking untidy. The Clerk will seek action from UDC.

It was agreed that an additional pagoda opposite the existing one at Mountfitchet/Church Road junction would greatly enhance the area. The Assistant to the Clerk will be asked to explore potential sources of funding.

**61 ALLOTMENTS** - nothing to report.

**62 TO CONSIDER A REQUEST FROM A PARISHIONER FOR A DOG BAN ON THE RECREATION GROUND, CHAPEL HILL**

The Clerk's report had detailed a request from a parishioner for a dog ban on the Recreation Ground having read that there is one in place on the Elsenham Playing Fields.

Cllr Brett opposed the proposal making the point that there were a very limited number of locations in the village where a dog can be exercised. He considered that, on the whole, the majority of dog owners are sensible and do keep their dogs under control. The Clerk had raised the issue of signage of the existing regulations, ie there is a dog ban in the enclosed children's play area and elsewhere on the Rec dogs should be on leads, as on other open spaces in the village. These fall under an Uttlesford DC byelaw.

Cllr Harding then proposed the following:

**RESOLUTION** that the request from the parishioner be declined.

Seconded by Cllr Van de Bilt and unanimously supported.

It was agreed that signage detailing the ban of dogs in the play area and the "Dogs on Leads" rule on the Rec needs to be improved and that some kind of flexible mesh should be fitted to the bottom of the gates to stop dogs getting underneath and into the play area. It was also agreed to try to re-set the double gates to the play area.

**63 STANSTED IN BLOOM**

Mrs Trundle has asked for publicity and entry forms to be made available on social media platforms. Cllr Hudson will liaise between the organisers and the committee.

**64 NOMINATION OF ELMS FARM WORKING GROUP**

It was agreed that the non-councillor members of this group should be invited to continue alongside Cllrs Barnes and Brett. Cllr Brett was aware of another resident who had expressed an interest in joining. Agreed that district members for the south ward should be kept informed of what was happening.

Meeting closed 8.42 pm

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