

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE OPEN SPACES COMMITTEE HELD ON TUESDAY 21st APRIL 2015 AT 6.45 PM IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER

PRESENT: Councillors: C Bray (Chair), B Hobbs, G Kennett MBE, C Fleury, K Lloyd M Wheeler, P England, B Hinton MBE, A Harris, G Cameron and Bamford.
10+ Members of the Public

1. APOLOGIES: C Lillywhite.

Absent: D Eccles.

2. TO AGREE THE MINUTES OF THE LAST OPEN SPACES MEETING HELD 21st OCTOBER 2014:

It was **resolved** the Minutes of the last meeting held 21st October 2014, having been previously circulated, be approved and signed (BAH/BH).

3. POUND GREEN

The Chairman said that the Open Spaces Committee was a sub-committee of the Parish Council and as such its decisions needed to be ratified by the full Council. However after consultation and the Parish Council's letter of 25th March there seemed to be no clear way forward. The feedback was varied and there was no consensus. Parish Councillors had all seen residents' letters. The intention was now to leave things as they were. The Parish Council would continue to maintain the road and grass and would replace the rotten posts and would do the agreed work outside Gosling Cottage raising the level of the grass.

Cllr Fleury questioned whether residents would now consider a residents association. A member of the public said that this would not happen. He was glad of the decision however.

Cllr Hinton said that the Parish Council had done its best.

A member of the public said that she had lived there 68 years. She did not want to see changes.

Cllr Kennett asked residents to keep an eye on things and to let the Parish Council know if people were parking for too long or lorries and caravans were being parked.

4. WILD FLOWERS SEED

It was agreed to go ahead with the proposal to put in wild flowers at Granny's Meade. The wild flower seed which the Parish Council had received from the Grow Wild wild flower campaign could be used there if appropriate.

5. SPINFISH

Quotations for the installation of a bridge across the stream were considered and it was **resolved** to accept the quote from Brighstone Landscaping in the sum of £940. Cllr Wheeler to speak with the contractors regarding the structural suitability of the project.

6. UPDATE ON WORKS UNDERTAKEN SINCE DATE OF THE LAST MEETING.

Phase 2 of Spinfish had been completed and Brighstone Landscaping were now doing some tidying up and reseeded.

The Clerk was asked about the lease at Jubilee Field and he explained the delay with that in so far as it was now being considered whether the land was required for a new school. Cllr Medland said that it was with Hampshire County Council and he was following it up. In his opinion clearly no school was needed and he hoped it would soon be resolved.

The Chairman confirmed that the bank at Spinfish was being monitored for erosion.

7. OPEN SPACES WALK – UPDATE ON THE SUGGESTION FOR A POST CARD OF A WALK AROUND THE PARISH COUNCIL'S OPEN SPACES WITH A VIEW TO INVOLVING YOUNG PEOPLE

The Chairman and the Assistant Clerk were working on this but it could not be completed until the upgrade to the IT facilities in the office had been carried out.

8. FINANCIAL UPDATE

The Clerk confirmed:

Budget £20,000 and April expenditure £90.

9. QUESTIONS

The Chairman asked about trees which had been planted at Norton Green. Cllr Wheeler said that he thought they had been planted by Penny and David Green of Burnside. They had been there 18 months at least.

The Chairman said that she and the Clerk had looked at the ditch at Norton Green and it appeared to be silted up by the Thatches. Cllr Wheeler declared an interest as a resident. He said that the contractors clear the ditch once per annum. He agreed that it needed clearing out.

Cllr Wheeler asked about the cost of removing grass cuttings. The Clerk said that this had been looked into when the last contract had been concluded and it had been felt to be uneconomic. The solution seemed to be to cut more often.

10. TREES – TO CONSIDER QUOTATIONS FOR THE WORK DETAILED IN THE ANNUAL TREE REPORT.

Resolved to accept the quotation from Brighstone Landscaping. However it was agreed that thinning of trees at Spinfish should be 10% not 20% as suggested.

The Clerk to contact Bob Ebney to arrange a date for the Golden Hill walk.

11. DATE OF THE PARISH WALK.

It was **resolved** that this would take place on **Thursday 16th July 2015 at 6pm** starting from Spinfish (Queens Road end). Suggested areas to include West Green, the Pound, Granny's Meade, Black Hut Green and Norton Green.

12. OTHER

Cllr Fleury pointed out that a date would need to be fixed for the tree survey. It will now need to include the Stroud, Jubilee Field, the Pond, Granny's Meade, Spinfish, School Green Road, and Black Hut Green.

The meeting closed at 7.50 pm.