

**Minutes of the meeting of the  
PARKS, OPEN SPACES, CONSERVATION & FOOTPATHS COMMITTEE  
held on Monday, 14<sup>th</sup> July 2008  
at the Freight House, Bradley Way, Rochford, Essex**

**Councillors present:** Chairman K Holmes, Vice Chairman Mrs A Heath, Mrs J Barney, Mrs E Chippette, Mrs C Cunningham, Mrs M Dorrell, A James, V Leach, R Mitchell, R Patient, D Weir and Mrs M Weir.

**1) Apologies for non-attendance at the meeting:**

Cllr Mrs J Fern (other meeting). Members noted and accepted the apologies tendered.

**2) Declarations of Interest:**

There were no declarations of interest.

**3) Approval of the Minutes of the meeting held on 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2008:**

Cllr Leach questioned item 11. RDC - Country Park Developments: second paragraph 'Cllr Mrs Glynn proposed that the Committee sponsor a tree in Cherry Orchard'. Cllr Holmes asked the Clerk to change the word 'proposed' to 'suggested'. With the amendment, Members approved the minutes of 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2008 as a true record.

**4) Parks – Action List Update:**

The Clerk went through the action list and advised Members many actions remained outstanding due to the heavy workload of late.

- **Ponds:** Ongoing.
- **Footpath Signs:** Ongoing.
- **Allotments:** Ongoing.
- **ROSPA:** Some repairs to broken equipment undertaken by groundsman.
- **P3:** Only one volunteer at present therefore meeting not possible. Ongoing.
- **Open Space, Rectory Road:** Working with Payback Team Manager. Seats to be installed after works completed. Cllr James asked if the groundsman's son had started work and Cllr Holmes asked the Clerk to clarify what his role would be alongside the Payback Team. The Clerk advised he was capable of driving the Ransom and the Tractor and to rip out the soil to remove the rubbish from the bund. He reminded Members that Full Council made the decision to hire him to ensure the rubbish would be cleared by the deadline set by RDC of 29<sup>th</sup> September 2008. A discussion took place on what actions could be taken to prevent rubbish being left behind by visitors to the graveyard being dumped in the Open Space in future. Cllr Mrs Heath proposed '**This issue go to the General Purposes Committee as an Agenda item as to what decision/action the Council should take**'. Cllr James seconded and the motion was carried.
- **Memorial Plaques:** One request dealt with. Trees suitable to be identified - ongoing.
- **Tree Thinning in Spencers Park:** Ongoing.
- **Spencers Bridle path:** Keep on action list for review.
- **Visit to Country Park:** The Clerk to provide Members with directions.

**5) Financial Report – 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter report 2008/09:**

The Clerk went through the Financial Report and advised there was a query over item of expenditure 301, account 4037 of £9695, effectively car park refurbishing, and that he would investigate whether this item should be accrued to 2007/8 accounts. Apart from the query being checked, Members accepted the Financial Report.

**6) Letter from International Tree Foundation re. Site for tree planting:**

Cllr Holmes outlined to Members that in the letter the initiative was to plant trees over one whole acre and despite Glencroft being short on trees as suggested by Cllr Weir, the Council did not have land suitable. Cllr Holmes asked the Clerk to reply with thanks but we could not satisfy the requirements. All Members agreed.

**7) Letter from resident re. ‘Cycle Valley’ in Magnolia Park:**

Cllr Mrs Weir had photographed the site and passed round the photographs to Members. The Chairman thanked Mrs Weir for the photographs. Cllr Leach reminded Members there was a history of this problem and asked the Clerk to give an account to Members. The Clerk advised the area had been vandalised previously and the Council had removed the rubbish and restored the area 3 years ago. He confirmed the issues had already been reported to the Police and they had visited the site and taken names and addresses. He had also asked the groundsman to remove the rubbish and push the earth back with the digger. Cllr D Weir asked who had designated the area as ‘cycle valley’ and Cllr Holmes confirmed the area had not been designated but the Council had a responsibility to manage it. The Clerk stated that the groundsman could keep restoring the land to its original condition but could not prevent a recurrence. Cllr Holmes confirmed the Council would reply to the resident’s letter informing them of the Council’s intention to remove the rubbish and restore the land but it was an open area and Council could not restrict access.

**8) Summary of actions agreed:**

- Amendment to the Minutes of the Meeting of 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2008 item 11. RDC - Country Park Developments: second paragraph ‘proposed’ to be changed to ‘suggested’.
- Decision/action to be taken to prevent rubbish being left behind by visitors to the graveyard being dumped in Open Space. Issue to be put on General Purpose Committee Agenda.
- The Clerk to provide directions for Country Park Visit.
- The Clerk to investigate item 301 account 4037 in Financial Report.
- Respond to the International Tree Foundation – do not have an acre for planting.
- Groundsman to clear the rubbish in Magnolia (cycle valley) and push the earth back with the digger.
- Respond to resident’s letter re. ‘cycle valley’.

The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 8.35pm.

Chairman