

**Minutes of the meeting of the  
PARKS, OPEN SPACES, CONSERVATION & FOOTPATHS COMMITTEE held on  
Monday, 19<sup>th</sup> April 2010  
at the Freight House, Bradley Way, Rochford, Essex**

**Councillors present:** Vice Chairman Mrs A Heath, Mrs J Barney, Mrs E Chippette, Mrs C Cunningham, J Dickson, Mrs J Fern, A James, V Leach, D Weir and Mrs M Weir.

**Also Present:** Cllrs Mrs T Bateman, Mrs H Glynn and R Mitchell.

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

Cllrs Mrs M Dorrell (unwell) K Holmes and R Patient (another meeting). Members accepted the apologies tendered.

**2) Declarations of Interest:**

Cllr Mrs Glynn declared an interest should anything arise relating to Lincoln Road and Magnolia Park and Cllr Mrs Heath declared an interest regarding anything relating to the artwork for the footpath signs.

**3) Approval of the Minutes of the meeting held on 8<sup>th</sup> March 2010 and to approve the destruction of the manuscript notes in respect of that meeting:**

Members approved the Minutes of the Meeting held on 8<sup>th</sup> March 2010 as a true record and agreed to the destruction of the manuscript notes in respect of that meeting.

**4) Parks – Action List Update:**

The Clerk went through the action list.

- **Arrange for clearance of ponds on a timely basis:** The Clerk updated since the report went out the pennywort was quickly coming back because of the recent spell of good weather. Ongoing.
- **Footpath signs:** Ongoing as per report.
- **Research provision of allotments:** Item to be removed.
- **Work Programme for ROSPA:** Cllr James queried if an area in Elizabeth Close play space was to have turf or grass seed laid, the Clerk said he would look into getting some turf laid, although he felt it would likely be ripped up by vandals.
- **Tree Thinning in Spencers Park:** Ongoing as per report.
- **Spencer's bridlepath:** The Clerk reported a foul water drain leakage had halted work, however, Cllr James informed it looked as though the bridle path had been done in Clements Hall, the Clerk said he would check the next day.
- **Litter/dog bins collections:** Members reported that dogs were fouling and owners were not picking it up. The Clerk reported he had received emails complaining of the same over the last few days. Members began a discussion to remedy the problem, threatening to ban dogs was felt to be impracticable, signage had been removed in the past, RDC dog wardens were a possibility but HPC were withholding invoice payment due to poor service emptying bins. The item was left to be monitored.
- **Adult Gym:** The Clerk advised Wicksteed had postponed installation until May.
- **Disabled access, Spencers:** Ongoing as per report.

- **Log seats to be replaced with new benches in Spencers:** Item to be removed.
- **Clerk to write to Groundwork Essex to ascertain minimum amount of tree planting and invite them to Glencroft:** Item to be removed.
- **Arrange siting of footpath signs:** Ongoing as per report.
- **Install new seats in Magnolia & Glencroft:** Ongoing as per report.
- **Spencers Pond:** Cllr Mrs Glynn asked the Clerk if he had consulted with the Anglian Water Authority with regards to the Spring, the Clerk responded he had not done so and did not propose to do so as this would slow the process down without any positive advantage.

**5) Financial Report:**

The Clerk declared an overall spend of £47,378 out of a budget of £51,070, a slight under spend which he felt was good considering it was a tough year. He added the grounds man's ability to maintain the machinery had contributed to that. There were no questions and Members accepted the Financial Report.

- 6) Bulb Planting (requested at last Parks meeting) – Proposal by Cllr Mrs Glynn:**  
**In support of her proposal Cllr Mrs Glynn asked Members to approve purchase of bluebell and snowdrop bulbs for planting in Glencroft and suggested a maximum spend of £100.** Cllr James questioned if the grounds man could plant the bulbs and the Clerk responded that would prevent him from grass cutting which Members felt would not be practical. Cllr Mrs Heath thought the bulbs were a nice idea and seconded the motion, Members voted and the motion was carried. The Clerk to arrange.

- 7) ECC – Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981, section 53. Definitive Map Modification No.421 (Footpaths 15 and 2 Ashingdon and Footpath 7 Hawkwell (part) – Bridleways 43 Hawkwell and 43 Ashingdon, Rochford District) Order 2010:**  
 Members noted the letter from ECC. Cllr Mrs Weir said she would have like to have seen what it was and the Clerk encouraged Members to come to the office to see the map if they so wished.

**8) Summary of decisions:**

- Members agreed to remove the following items from the Action list:-
  - Footpath signs,
  - Research provision of allotments,
  - Log seats to be replaced with new benches in Spencers, and
  - Clerk to write to Groundwork Essex to ascertain minimum amount of tree planting and invite them to Glencroft.
- The Clerk to arrange for turf to be laid on bare area of ground in Elizabeth Close play space.
- The Clerk to arrange the purchase and planting of bluebells and snowdrops in Glencroft, maximum spend of £100.

The meeting closed at 9.45pm.

Chairman