

**Minutes of the meeting of the
PARKS, OPEN SPACES, CONSERVATION & FOOTPATHS COMMITTEE
held on Monday, 2nd June 2008
at the Freight House, Bradley Way, Rochford, Essex**

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

Also Present: Cllr Mrs H Glynn

1) Elect Chairman:

Cllr Mrs Chippette proposed Cllr Holmes be appointed Chair for a further year. Cllr Mrs Heath seconded. In the absence of no further nominations Cllr Holmes accepted and was content to stand on.

2) Elect Vice Chairman:

Cllr James proposed Cllr Mrs Weir and Cllr Mrs Heath seconded. Cllr Holmes proposed Cllr Mrs Heath and Cllr Mrs Barney seconded. Cllr Mrs Weir withdrew and Cllr Mrs Heath was elected to Vice Chairman.

3) Presentation by Andy Hill re Spray Can Art Project:

In the absence of Andy Hill the Chairman adjourned the meeting to receive a presentation on the Massive Project scheduled to be presented to the Full Council Meeting to be held after the close of the Parks Committee.

The Chairman reconvened the meeting. He gave an update that he and the Clerk had met Andy Hill on site at Magnolia on Wednesday 28th May 2008 and arranged for him to present his art work to the Committee to approve. In the absence of Andy Hill the committee were unable to approve the work and therefore the intended commencement date of 7th June 2008 would be suspended. The Clerk to contact Andy Hill.

4) Apologies for non-attendance at the meeting:

Cllrs Mrs M Dorrell (unwell) and R Mitchell (other appointment). Members noted and accepted the apologies tendered.

5) Declarations of Interest:

There were no declarations of interest.

6) Approval of Minutes of the meeting held on 14th April 2008:

Members approved the minutes as a true record.

7) Parks – Action List Update:

The Clerk went through the action list.

- **Ponds:** Clerk investigating a contractor that can spray over water to deal with the weed in Spencers. Ongoing.
- **Footpath Signs:** Ongoing.
- **Allotments:** See Item 12.
- **ROSPA:** Action still to be started.

- **P3:** Ongoing.
- **Open Space, Rectory Road:** Grass beginning to come through. Two new seats to be positioned.
- **Memorial Plaques:** Ongoing.
- **Tree Thinning in Spencers Park:** Ongoing.
- **Spencers Bridle path:** Keep on action list for review.

8) Financial Report:

The Clerk announced the accounts had now been closed down and he would be able to provide detailed spending against budget at the next meeting, meanwhile he had provided a copy of the cash book and had underlined Parks items only. Members agreed and accepted the report.

9) Consider draft Operational Plan:

Members discussed the inclusion of the project to re-establish the Friends of Magnolia Park. It was proposed that an advertisement be placed in the next newsletter to recruit Friends of Magnolia Park. The motion was carried. Members moved to accept the Operational Plan.

10) Budget amendments for 2008/9:

The Clerk went through some minor amendments and advised it was in line with what was budgeted. Members were content with the budget plan and the document was accepted.

11) RDC – Country Park Developments:

Members noted the content of the letter and the Chairman asked for a show of hands from Members wishing to attend a guided tour of the site. Cllrs Mrs J Barney, Mrs E Chippette, J Dickson, Mrs J Fern, Mrs A Heath, A James and Mrs Weir agreed to attend. The Chairman asked the Clerk to respond to the letter expressing the Committees interest and to request some dates.

Cllr Mrs Glynn suggested that the Committee sponsor a tree in Cherry Orchard. This was well received and the Clerk would look into it.

12) Allotments: Petition from local residents and verbal report by Clerk re meeting with neighbouring Parishes:

The Clerk updated Members on his meeting to discuss a joint venture in gaining allotments with Rochford, Ashingdon and Hockley Parish Councils. A lengthy discussion followed. Members generally felt that Parishioners requiring an allotment would want it to be located in the vicinity of Hawkwell itself and discussed the difficulties of managing the venture with other Councils. Members asked the Clerk to remind them of the size of an allotment. The Clerk advised that he understood Rochford had over 100 allotments on 3 acres of land. Cllr James requested confirmation that the petition requesting allotments was still valid. Members believed this to be so. Cllr Mrs Heath asked if the committee had written to RDC to ask them to identify any land that could be taken over for allotments. Generally Members felt that issue of siteing additional homes in the area would need to be resolved before any land could be earmarked. Cllr Leach felt it likely this would not be established until 2009 at best.

Cllr D Weir proposed ‘**that the Committee abandon the joint venture and remain independent in the Council’s research in gaining land for allotments to Hawkwell Parishioners**’. Cllr Mrs Cunningham seconded. A vote was taken and 7 Members voted for. The motion was carried.

Cllr Dickson suggested an allotment working party be set up to research land possibilities. Members rejected the working party at this stage. Cllr Heath requested an article be published in the newsletter explaining to Parishioners that purchasing land and providing the facilities required would impact in increased cost in rates. The Chairman suggested the Clerk, having already started some research would continue to do so, and contact Estate Agents and land owners. The Chairman asked for a show hands and the motion was carried.

13) Summary of actions agreed:

- Cllr Holmes to continue as Chairman.
- Cllr Mrs Heath was elected as Vice Chairman.
- The Clerk to contact Andy Hill regarding Magnolia artwork approval.
- Advertisement to be placed in the next newsletter to recruit Friends of Magnolia Park.
- Clerk to respond to RDC Country Park Development expressing the Committee’s interest and to request dates for site visit.
- Cllrs Mrs J Barney, Mrs E Chippette, J Dickson, Mrs J Fern, Mrs A Heath, A James and Mrs Weir to attend site visit.
- The Clerk to look into the idea of sponsoring a tree in the Country Park Development.
- Members voted not to continue with the joint research into provision of allotments preferring to remain independent of the neighbouring parishes.
- The Clerk to research provision of land for allotments.

Chairman