

**Minutes of the meeting of the  
PARKS, OPEN SPACES, CONSERVATION & FOOTPATHS COMMITTEE  
held on Monday, 8<sup>th</sup> September 2008  
at the Freight House, Bradley Way, Rochford, Essex**

**Councillors present:** Mrs J Barney, Mrs E Chippette, Mrs C Cunningham, Mrs J Fern, A James, V Leach, R Patient, D Weir and Mrs M Weir.

In the absence of the Chairman and Vice Chairman, Members elected Cllr V Leach to take the Chair.

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

Cllrs J Dickson (another meeting), Mrs M Dorrell (unwell), Mrs A Heath (holiday) and K Holmes (holiday). 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 14<sup>th</sup> July 2008:**

Members approved the minutes of 14<sup>th</sup> July 2008 as a true record.

**4) Parks – Action List Update:**

The Clerk went through the action list.

- **Ponds:** Expert from Thurlows Countryside Management assessing ponds on Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> September 2008.
- **Footpath Signs:** Ongoing.
- **Allotments:** Ongoing.
- **ROSPA:** Ongoing.
- **P3:** Ongoing.
- **Open Space, Rectory Road:** Majority of rubbish moved was from open space and not from spoil heap. Happy with work done so far and expect work to run to the end of September.
- **Memorial Plaques:** Ongoing.
- **Tree Thinning in Spencers Park:** The Clerk met with tree expert 4<sup>th</sup> September 2008 and awaiting their report in 2-3 weeks. The flowerbed had been ploughed in preparation for seeding with wild flowers. Cllr Mrs Weir asked the Clerk to add the wild flower bed to the next Agenda and he agreed.
- **Spencers Bridle path:** Keep on action list for review.
- **Visit to Country Park:** Cllr James informed Members he had posted information about the visit on the website. Item closed.
- **Sponsoring a tree in Cherry Orchard Country Park:** Item closed.
- **Graffiti Project:** Completed.
- **Investigate CC301 account 4037:** CC301 was budgeted and properly transacted in 2008, therefore it was in the correct year.
- **Clear rubbish in unofficial cycle track:** Cllr James asked the Clerk when work would be started and he replied once the work on the land adjacent to the churchyard had been completed. Cllr Mrs Weir reported there were 2 unused

badger sets at this site and should the badgers return the sets would gain protection.

**5) Financial Report:**

Members accepted the Financial Report.

**6) Letter from Martin Tyrell (Hawkwell Baptist Church) re. use of recreation ground at Magnolia Park for football training:**

Cllr Leach informed Members there was a need to formally give permission for the use of the field for liability cover. Cllr Chippette asked if there had been any problems with litter and Cllr Leach confirmed there were none. All Members supported the use of the field and the motion was carried to give formal permission. Cllr Patient asked the Clerk include in his letter of response that the Council presumes that Hawkwell Hornet Football teams were providing adequate insurance cover for themselves. The Clerk noted and agreed.

**7) New charges for litter/dog bin emptying (email from RDC):**

Cllr Leach asked the Clerk how the quotation compared to the budgeted sum and the Clerk advised that this represented a price increase 12pence per bin, per empty. The Clerk informed Members that in the past the contractors had failed to regularly empty bins in line with the contract. Cllr James asked the Clerk to clarify if the number of bins stated was correct and he confirmed they were correct with the exception of Glencroft where there had originally be 2 dog bins and 2 litter bins but the dog bins had recently been burned out. Cllr James asked if Members could spot check bin emptying. Cllr Leach asked the Clerk to inform Members at the next meeting the days of collection of bins so that Members would have the opportunity to spot check when they were out and about. Members noted the suggestions and charges.

**8) Summary of actions agreed:**

- The Clerk to include wild flower bed to the next Agenda.
- Support use of field for Hawkwell Hornet Football teams and formal permission agreed. The Clerk to include in response that the Council presumes that Hawkwell Hornet Football teams have their own insurance cover in place.
- The Clerk to inform Members at the next meeting of the days of bin collection.

The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9.15pm.

Chairman