



SHAFTESBURY TOWN COUNCIL

**RECREATION, OPEN SPACES AND ENVIRONMENT
COMMITTEE**

Minutes of a meeting of the Recreation, Open Spaces and Environment Committee held in the Mayor's Parlour, Town Hall, High Street, Shaftesbury Dorset SP7 8LY on Tuesday 3rd March 2015 commencing at 6:00pm.

Members Present:

Cllr K Tippins (Chair)
Cllr M Hicks

Cllr S Clinch
Cllr R Tippins

Absent:

Cllr W Harvey (apologies)

Cllr M Madgwick

Officers Present:

Claire Commons, Acting Committee Services Officer
Stephen Holley, Town Clerk

In Attendance:

Four members of the public

MINUTES

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Members of the public were invited to make representations to the committee on any matters relating to the work of the committee or to raise any issues of concern. The following matters were raised;

- Footpaths. It was noted that Wiltshire Council was looking to improve the quality of its footpaths, in particular the way signs and stiles. It was suggested that Shaftesbury Town Council might like to monitor the condition of the paths in Shaftesbury to ensure that they continued to be accessible, particularly in light of the increased population of the town.
- St James' Park. It was noted that the football area had deteriorated and considered that it would benefit from treatment with weed killer. It was **AGREED** to raise this with the Head Groundsman.
- Jubilee Path. Concern was expressed that it was not cleared as often as was needed. It was **AGREED** to raise this with the Head Groundsman.

01. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr Harvey, who was absent due to family commitments.

02. Declaration of Interests

Members and Officers were reminded of their duty to declare any known interests in any matter to be considered. There were none.

03. Minutes

It was **RESOLVED** to approve and adopt the minutes of the Recreation, Open Spaces and Environment Committee meeting held on 28th October 2014. The minutes were duly signed.

04. Chairman's Announcements

The Chairman reported on the following areas;

- Snowdrop Festival – Formal thanks were extended to Shaftesbury Snowdrops for the success of the Snowdrop Festival and the variety of groups and ages involved. Congratulations were extended to Mrs Pamela Cruickshank for being an excellent project manager and co-ordinator for the whole of the Snowdrop Festival. The Chairman thought it highly commendable that the festival had recently featured in the Sunday Times Travel section.
- Play Area at The Maltings – The Chairman expressed her hope that this project could be progressed. Eight comprehensive designs and quotes had been prepared and a meeting was being arranged with interested parties to discuss progression of this area. The designs and the quotes fit well within the Section 106 monies allocated by North Dorset District Council. Magna Housing Association had also indicated that it would also put funding towards a communal garden in this area. A meeting was to be arranged between the Town Clerk and North Dorset County Council, Councillors and Maltings residents.
- Thanks were extended to Sam Sly, the temporary Groundsman, for his dedication and hard work. Mr Sly had left the Council in January 2015. The Chairman stated that she would like to formally record her thanks to Mr Sly for the work he had undertaken; the Committee joined her in wishing Mr Sly all the best in his new role.
- Community Farm – The hen coop which had been purchased with funds from the Community Grant had been well received and the hens had settled in well.
- Breach Common – Progress was being made to improve maintenance of the Right of Way footpaths across the Common. Maintenance was the responsibility of Dorset County Council (DCC) and the Town Clerk was awaiting DCC's response to his request that the upkeep of the footpaths remain on the DCC work programme.
- St John's Churchyard – Confirmation had been received that the diseased Beech Tree had been felled.

05. Tree Applications

The Officer's report 0315/ROSE/05 was received. The Committee **RESOLVED** to submit the following observations to North Dorset District Council:

App x	Reference	Applicant and address	Detail	Tree Surgeon
1.1.	2/2015/0253/CATREE	3 – 5 Castle Gardens, Bimport	T1 – Beech – Over extended lower lateral limbs only to be reduced back to growth points at Plot 5 T2 – Holly – has grown into tree – bring into shape by tipping by 2ft each side of the Holly as facing away from the dwelling at Plot 4 T3-T4 – Holly bushes – these bushes have grown into small trees, bring into shape by tipping back by 2ft each side of Holly trees, as facing away from the dwelling at Plot 3	Unknown
Shaftesbury Tree Group Comments		The Tree Group was due to meet on 4 th March and would discuss this application at that meeting and advise the outcome the following day		
Committee Comments		It was RESOLVED to delegate to the Clerk to respond to the application in light of the Committee’s discussions and any further comment from the Tree Group		
1.2.	2/2015/0257/CATREE	Elsted, 2a Magdalene Lane	T1 – Yew – Reduce height to 2m (same height as the hedge)	Unknown
Shaftesbury Tree Group Comments		No objections		
Committee Comments		The Committee had no objections to the application.		

06. Grounds Team Report

The Officer Report 0315/ROSE/06 was received and noted. Compliments were extended to the Grounds Team on the schedules provided. Further congratulations were given in respect of the works carried out at the Queen Mothers Garden, Castle Hill and the area surrounding the Ambulance Station. It was **AGREED** that a ‘task and finish’ working group be formed to devise a planting scheme at the Queen Mothers Garden, Castle Hill. It was **AGREED** to implement the work programme for the cleaning, repair and maintenance of benches as identified at Appendix C to the circulated report.

07. Castle Hill Footpath and Steps

The Officer Report 0315/ROSE/07 was received. It was noted that the path required some levelling and it was **AGREED** to request the Clerk to follow this up with the contractor. It was **RESOLVED** to issue the press release as provided in the report with one amendment that the paved path be referred to as an all-weather path. (*Policy 0315/ROSE/07*). It was also **AGREED** to look at possible locations for benches in that area.

08. Wincombe Recreation Ground

The Officer Report 0315/ROSE/08 was received. It was **RESOLVED** that the proposed tree thinning at Wincombe Lane Recreation Ground, and the associated press release, be approved. (*Policy 0315/ROSE/08*)

09. Gold Hill Wall

The Officer Report 0315/ROSE/09 was received and noted.

10. Correspondence

The Officer Report 0315/ROSE/10 was received. It was **AGREED** to request that the Clerk look into the Council entering into a Service Level Agreement with the Trinity Centre Trust in respect of grounds maintenance, and to report to the Committee for further consideration.

There being no further business, the Chairman thanked members and public for attendance and closed the meeting at 6:45pm.

Signed

Date