



SHAFTESBURY TOWN COUNCIL

Recreation, Open Spaces and Environment Committee

Minutes of a meeting of the Recreation, Open Spaces and Environment Committee held in the Council Chamber, High Street, Shaftesbury Dorset SP7 8LY on Tuesday 14th June 2016 commencing at 7:00pm.

Members Present:

Councillor K Tippins (Chair)
Councillor Francis

Councillor Taylor (Vice-Chair)
Councillor R Tippins

Officers Present:

Claire Commons

In Attendance:

Three members of the public

MINUTES

Public Participation

Members of the public were invited to make representations to the Council on any matters relating to the work of the Council or to raise any issues of concern. No matters were raised and the public were invited to speak at the appropriate time during the meeting.

R01 Election of Chairman and Vice

It was **RESOLVED** that Councillor Karen Tippins be Chair and Councillor Lester Taylor be Vice-Chair of the Recreation, Open Spaces and Environment Committee.

R02 Apologies

Apologies were accepted from Councillor Jackson due to work commitments, Councillor Todd due to personal circumstances and the Head Groundsman due to Annual Leave.

R03 Declarations of Interest and Dispensations

No declarations of interest or dispensations had been received. Members were invited to declare any interests throughout the meeting if the need arose.

R04 Minutes

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the minutes of the meeting held on 2nd February 2016 as a correct record. The minutes were duly signed.

R05 Playground Inspection Report

Officer report 0616ROSE05 was received and adopted.

The Committee **AGREED** that graffiti should remain as long as it was not offensive. It was requested that the inspection company be thanked for their comprehensive report.

R06 Castle Hill Management Plan

Officer report 0616ROSE06 was received. It was **RESOLVED** to adopt the plan with any additional comments being received by the Open Spaces Group at the next meeting of the Committee and an annual review of the plan undertaken.

R07 Breach Common

Shaftesbury Open Spaces Group Report 0616ROSE07 was received. It was **AGREED** to request of Dorset County Council Rangers to clear to the agreed path width and the Committee would then review any further need for a plan. It was asked if the Grounds Team could look at clearing access to the seats after the County Council had cleared the path. The Committee Services Officer advised that the land to the south of Breach Common was a Site of Special Scientific Interest and any future considerations be mindful not to impact on it.

R08 Donkey Field Orchard

Officer report 0616ROSE08 was received. The Chair reported that she had met with members of the Open Spaces Group and The Donkey Field Orchard and understood that they would like the opportunity for a less formal relationship. It was agreed to investigate the Bridport model as an example of a similar arrangement working well.

R09 Officer Report

Officer report 0616ROSE09 was received, the following matters were **AGREED**;

Significant visits and correspondence – In light of the significance of Historic England coming to Shaftesbury it was **AGREED** that the relevant Committee is involved in any significant visits or correspondence.

Historic England sites – It was noted that Historic England required separate management plans for the Bury Litton (St John's Churchyard) and Castle Hill Monument sites. It was suggested that a management plan be prepared to look at prior to the next meeting of the Committee, to be reviewed by the Head Groundsman and to receive input from the Committee ready for submission to Heritage England.

Wincombe Recreation Ground – Consideration was given to enhancements at Wincombe Recreation Ground. It was **AGREED** to hold a site visit and bring back to the next meeting of the Committee.

Grounds Team – The Committee asked what skills and background the new Groundsman had and invited him to the next meeting of the Committee

Unofficial Footpaths – Concern was expressed about the condition of some unofficial paths in Shaftesbury and it was agreed to investigate responsibilities for maintenance.

Weed killing – Officers were asked to circulate the costs and details of the foam system and other ideas such as flame torches, steam alternatives.

Cockrams – It was agreed to arrange a site visit with the Head Groundsman to look at options for improvements at Cockrams

Grass Cutting – Concern was raised about the mess left after the grass cutting, it was noted that the initial cut was long and therefore left some mess, future cuts would be shorter and clippings should mulch into the ground. It was agreed to monitor.

Table tennis bat and ball. It was suggested that the swimming pool purchased table tennis bats and balls and suggested £5 deposit and free rental.

Park Walk Kissing Gate. The committee was informed that the Civic Society had expressed a preference to retain the kissing gate on Park Walk due to its historic nature and in light of other suitable wheelchair access to Park Walk.

R10 Next agenda

Officer report 0616ROSE10 was received. It was confirmed that the next meeting was scheduled to be held on 19th July 2016.

It was agreed that the following items of business would be considered on the forthcoming agendas of the Committee;

- Jubilee path – Management plan for improvements within the allocated £6,800.
- Wincombe site visit feedback
- Historic England first draft management plan
- Feedback on A30 allotments including poly tunnel
- Lease / Licence information
- Coppice Street Corner – planting plan
- Plant suggestions for window boxes

There being no further business, the meeting was closed at 8:10pm

Signed

Date

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