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**STANSTED MOUNTFITCHET PARISH COUNCIL OPEN SPACES**

MINUTES of a meeting of the OPEN SPACES COMMITTEE held at 7.30pm on Wednesday 8th March 2023 in The Mountfitchet Exchange, Crafton Green, 72 Chapel Hill, Stansted Mountfitchet, Essex

**PRESENT** Cllrs A Barnes (Chair), Cllr G Braeckman, M Caton, J Kavanagh, A Khan,

F Richards

**ATTENDING** Mrs Emma Philbrick – Deputy Clerk

Mrs Laila Azure-Marxen – Project Officer

Cllr P Jones

**388 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Prior (Holiday) and Cllr Hudson (holiday). Having been proposed by Cllr Richards and seconded by Cllr Caton, it was unanimously:

**RESOLVED** to accept the apologies from Cllrs Prior and Hudson

**389 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None

**390 TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE OPEN SPACES MEETING HELD ON 25th January 2023**

One paragraph number needs correcting.

**RESOLVED** To approve the minutes of the Open Spaces meeting held on 25th January 2023 as a true and accurate account.

**391 UPDATE ON ACTION POINTS FROM THE LAST MEETING**

263 The Clerk and Cllr Caton will inform schools in person. They have already visited Foresthall Park School and scheduled to visit Bentfield School.

331 SiB will be included on the next agenda

332 Due to other work taking priority Dan has not had time to work on this yet.

334 Laila is working on this: A report will be sent to Sustainable Stansted soon and will be ongoing.

Dan is discussing content ideas with members of Sustainable Stansted

336 Dan is working on this, Lucy will help him with photos of play equipment repair

337 Requests for quotes have been sent, but none have been received in time for the meeting. Item 11 might need to be deferred.

338 Cllr Kavanagh will visit the site and evaluate if they need special considerations for wildflower/rewilding. The office will investigate any legal permissions required.

**392 TO RECEIVE A REPORT FROM THE CHAIR**

Attached

On adding poppies to the Memorial Garden, it was suggested to focus on seeding in gap in the existing beds down the sides. Cllr Braeckman argued that seeds would probably be the most cost-effective option, and turf would risk dying of not watered regularly. It was agreed to get GWB to cost just seeding the existing flower beds.

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Cllr Barnes presented the ideas to use some of the new planters on temporary locations for the Coronation event and Anglia in Bloom. It was agreed to place one planter on the Fountain and one additional planter on Church Road, to include the South more.

Cllr Jones joined the meeting

**393 TO RECEIVE A REPORT FROM THE PROJECTS OFFICER**

Attached

The office did not receive the quotes for the reseeding project in time for the meeting. Laila will chase. Cllr Braeckman commented that after April it would be a project for next seeding season in September/October. Quotes will be chased and the decision taken to Full Council if necessary.

**394 TO RECEIVE A REPORT OF INTERMENTS FROM THE CLERK**

No interments. One additional inscription approved for the memorial of Cyril Stoneham.

**395 TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE REPORT FROM SUSTAINABLE STANSTED**

Attached

Cllr Jones reported that the group is very active and committed. They plan to have a stand at the Community Coronation Picnic, where they will introduce themselves to the community and have crafts for kids. It was discussed that there should be a closer working relationship between the Parish Council and the group and members should be invited to attend future meetings.

**396 TO DISCUSSS PLANS AND PROGRESS TOWARDS THE HANDOVER OF:**

**A WALPOLE MEADOWS ALLOTMENTS AND POS**

The handover of the allotments is close but is held up by Bloor’s solicitors. Laila is updating the Tenancy Agreements and relevant lists in preparation of the handover.

The work on the French drain ditch has been completed, time will tell if it sufficient. The dead shrubs will be replaced as part of the remedial plan. The paths need more work and is also included in the remedial plan.

The playground fence has still not been replaced, as Bloor says it has been approved by RoSPA. Cllr Barnes and UDC have not seen the RoSPA report and the s106 officer advises on a getting a new report done. It was discussed that the fence in its current condition would fail any health and safety inspection. Parts of the fence have big splinters and could “pop off” at any time, hurting someone walking by.

It was agreed that the Parish Council will write UDC Executive Chief on the concern of the decreasing safety on the playground. It was also agreed to cc Bloor Homes, to remind them that this issue is not helping them and the new levelling up legislation will limit developers with consistent bad reputation.

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**B Elms Farm POS**

There is no progress. The s106 officer is in contact with Crests and Naio, on getting the land into a suitable condition before handover. The working group cannot do much until then, but should be ready with ideas as the project will be big and costly.

**397 TO CONSIDER WHETHER ADDITIONAL DOG WASTE BINS ARE REQUIRED**

The office met with the Environmental Rangers, and based on their daily experience they do not believe there is a need for additional dog waste bins on any of their route at present but will regularly monitor this. Lucy thought the suggestion by the Stansted Mountpickers for one to be placed between High Lane and Cambridge Road, by King Charles Drive, was a good idea but due to her work schedule, she only visits this area once a week. She will monitor how full the bin is getting.

If the committee revisits adding more dog waste bins, they need to consider that the Environmental Rangers already is at capacity with their work hours and have established routes. Lucy’s routes will need to be revised when Walpole Meadows is handed over.

It was agreed, based on the feedback from the environmental Rangers, that there isn’t a lack of bins, but an issue with lack of use of the existing bins. It was agreed to only add one additional dog waste bin by King Charles Drive.

**398 TO CONSIDER OPTIONS AND RECEIVED QUOTED FOR THE RESEEDING OF THE RECTREATION GROUND FOOTBALL GOAL AREA**

The item was deferred as no additional quotes have been received yet. Laila will request a quote from the gardening contractor GWB. When more quotes had been received the decision will be added to the next Full Council agenda.

**399 TO RECEIVE THE QUARTERLY REPORT ON THE GARDENING AND GRASS CUTTING CONTRACTS**

No comments

**400 TO RECEIVE A VERBAL REPORT FROM THE CORONATION SHELTER WORKING GROUP ON IDEAS TO REFURBISH THE INSIDE OF THE SHELTER**

The red/white/blue paint theme had been rejected by the working group and they recommend doing black anti-graffiti paint. Cllr Prior have suggested to use the wall behind the bench for memorial plaques. It will fit around 250 plaques, with a cost of £30-40 pr plaque. This would allow more people to buy a memorial plaque without having to buy a bench as well. It will be self-financing project. Alternatively, it can be a refurbishment fund, where people pay a slightly more and donate toward the future upkeep of the shed. This will need to be communicated well. There will need to be guidance on decorating the memorial plaques after installation.

A Coronation plaque, matching the existing Queen’s plaque, is estimated to be around £1,6-1,700. There was a discussion about the need to replace the existing plaque, and alternatively have a larger brass plaque in the shelter. It was agreed that a stone plaque would look best. It was suggested that Dan reach out to the community and ask if anyone is willing to donate a contribution/fund the project as a community gesture. The office is to contact Daniel Robinson on a donation.

All the ideas are unfunded, so there needs to be clear costings of all ideas to make any final decisions and financing options.

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**401 TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON FOOTPATHS**

Cllr Barnes thanked Mr Stiles for the report. It was agreed that Mr. Stiles will get updates on progress on the issues raised.

The Deputy Clerk updated the Committee on all the issues raised in the report – the office has dealt with all the issues within the responsibility of the Parish Council and have contacted Highways and UDC.

**402 MATTERS TO BE CONSIDERED FOR THE NEXT AGENDA**

A community group have asked for the Committee to consider allowing use of POS for paying clubs/classes. The office will investigate the agreements on the POS and this will be added to the next agenda

Sustainable Stansted should have an invitation to attend next meeting. Laila to ask them to present/talk about their efforts and discuss collaborations with the Parish Council.

Meeting Closed at 9.14pm

**ACTION POINTS**

338 Cllr Kavanagh to visit the Rainsford Road and Longcroft and evaluate if the sites need special considerations for wildflower/rewilding. The office will investigate any legal permissions required.

392 Laila to ask GWB for costing seeding the existing flower beds in the Memorial Garden

To place one planter on the Fountain and one additional planter on Church Road

393 Laila to chase quotes on reseeding project

396a The Parish Council to write UDC Executive Chief on the concern of the decreasing safety on the playground on Walpole meadows. Bloor homes should be CC’d

397 Dan to do a post reminding people that they can put double bagged dog waste into the normal bin. He should also post a map of all the dog waste bins in the Village.

398 Laila to request a quote from GWB on reseeding the football area.

400 Dan to reach out to the community and ask if anyone is willing to donate a contribution/fund the Coronation Shelter project as a community gesture.

The office is to contact Daniel Robinson on a donation.

402 The office to investigate the rental agreements on the POS

Laila to ask Sustainable Stansted to attend the next OS meeting.