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**STANSTED MOUNTFITCHET PARISH COUNCIL OPEN SPACES COMITTEEE**

MINUTES of a meeting of the OPEN SPACES COMMITTEE held at 7.30pm on Wednesday 17th April 2024 in The Mountfitchet Exchange, Crafton Green, 72 Chapel Hill, Stansted Mountfitchet, Essex

**PRESENT** Cllr J Kavanagh (Chair), Cllrs A Barnes, M Caton, A Khan, A Love and

 T van de Bilt

**ATTENDING** Mrs Ruth Clifford – Parish Clerk

 Mrs Emma Philbrick – Deputy Clerk

 1 member of the public via Zoom

**526 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Braeckman – University, Cllr Guney – Work Commitments and Cllr Prior – Holiday.

 **RESOLVED** To accept the apologies for absence from Cllrs Braeckman, Guney and Prior.

**527 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST -** None

**528 TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 6TH MARCH 2024**

 **RESOLVED** To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 6th March 2024 as a true and accurate account.

**529 TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON ACTION POINTS FROM THE LAST MEETING**

472 Clerk to raise the planting of poppies in the Memorial Gardens with the contractor - done

 476 Add watering of the 3 commemorative trees to the gardening schedule - done

 477 Working Group to meet with the Clerk and prepare a report on key play areas – a meeting took place on 12th April to agree the maintenance work to be carried out from the £5,000 authorised at the last meeting although one quote is still awaited. A further meeting will be held to start the reports on recommendations for equipment in each of the key play areas.

 478 The Youth Club, Youth Council and Sustainable Stansted to be informed of litter pick, date and event to be publicised on social media – all done.

 479 Advertise for a permanent Tree Warden – now that the Tree Management Policy has been revised and adopted, this will be done in the next Link magazine and via social media.

Cllr Barnes asked what the gardener’s opinion was on the commemorative trees and whether they have survived or not. The Chair and Clerk had spoken to them about this and it is too early to tell at this stage but the trees are being monitored.

**530 TO RECEIVE A REPORT FROM THE CHAIR, CLLR J KAVANAGH**

Attached

 It was agreed that a social media post would be done regarding the temporary closure of the permissive paths.

 Cllr Khan reiterated previous comments that the fencing around the play area at Walpole Meadows was still unsafe. The S106 officer is aware of our concerns, and we are awaiting their findings.

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**531 TO RECEIVE A CEMETERY REPORT**

An additional inscription has been approved for the late Peggy Honour.

 A new memorial has been approved for the late Delia Stringer.

**532 TO RECEIVE A REPORT FROM SUSTAINABLE STANSTED**

No report received.

**533 TO RECEIVE A REPORT FROM THE BIODIVERSITY WORKING GROUP AND DECIDE WHETHER OR NOT TO PROCEED WITH THE WILDFLOWER PROJECT**

A report and pictures from the Biodiversity Working Group were circulated to members ahead of the meeting.

The areas designated for the wildflower project would not be cut once the project has commenced and it was agreed to publicise this through social media. The areas will be staked out and signs erected so that people are aware. It was agreed that the Clerk would contact the company who are undertaking the project to find out who will be responsible for the end of season cut and tidy in October and whether this is included in the project cost.

 Having been proposed by Cllr Khan and seconded by Cllr van de Bilt, it was unanimously

 **RESOLVED** To proceed with the Wildflower Project as outlined in the report from the working group.

**534 TO DECIDE WHETHER OR NOT TO SUPPORT A SKATEFEST 2024**

The Clerk advised that she had been approached by her contact who has organised all of the previous skatefest events and is willing to do so again this year. He has asked if the Council would cover his costs of £250. it was commented that this is a popular event which is appreciated by many in the village and has grown successfully each year.

 Having been proposed by Cllr Barnes and seconded by Cllr Love, it was unanimously

 **RESOLVED** To cover the £250 cost for our external contact to organise and run the Skatefest 2024.

**535 TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE REPORT ON FOOTPATHS**

A copy of the footpath report along with comments from the office was circulated to members ahead of the meeting.

 A discussion took place regarding noticeboards which are in disrepair, especially the one by Bentley Drive. It was agreed that this board should be removed and the one on Walson Way repaired if possible. At this stage no plans were made to replace any boards removed.

Meeting closed at 8.03pm

**ACTION POINTS**

530 Social media post to be put out advising the temporary closure of the Permissive Footpaths

533 Publicise the Wildflower areas which will not be cut during the project