



Gateway to the
New Forest

Open Spaces Meeting Minutes

Tuesday 15TH March at 2.30pm

Colin Room, Church Rooms, Deerleap Lane, Colbury

**Draft Minutes of the
Open Spaces Committee Meeting
Held on Tuesday 15th March 2023 at 2.30pm
At the Colin Room, Church Rooms, Deerleap Lane, Colbury**

Attending

Cllr Sue Robinson, Cllr Caroline Smith, Cllr Bobbie Torkington (Chair), Cllr Clive White,
Karen Cramoysan (Clerk), 0 Members of the Public

11 Apologies – Cllr Caroline Hubbard, Cllr Trevor Jakeman, Cllr Keith Nutburn

12 Declarations of Interest - None

13 Public Participation - None

14 To Receive Minutes of the Open Spaces Committee Meeting held on 8th November 2022
RESOLVED: Minutes of the Open Spaces Committee Meeting held on 8th November 2022
were received and signed as an accurate copy

15 Matters Arising
At Chair's discretion (if not covered by agenda below)

Allotments Skip - Cllr Torkington asked for an update on the skip at the allotments – Clerk advised that she was still waiting for a date when the Community Payback Scheme could attend and had not heard back from despite chasing several times.

Allotment clearing of old plots – It had previously been discussed for the Council to employ someone to clear old plots before handing them over to new tenants. After a very lengthy discussion, it was agreed that this was not a good use of public money and that if new tenants wanted an allotment plot, then they would have to take on the work to clear it. The Clerk advised that she had previously waived the rent for the year if the plots were in a bad state as a goodwill gesture to allow the new tenant to get it ready for the season, and it was **AGREED** to continue this practice.

16 Recreation Ground

a. To Discuss Quotes for Play Area Fencing & recent Playground Inspection

The Clerk had received two quotes from local tradesman to erect a fence around the play area. The quotes were in 3 parts;

Part 1 to enclose the area with the Fire Engine and wooden play equipment,

Part 2 to enclose the area where the slide is situated and the area in part 1, and

Part 3 to enclose the whole area from the bottom of the Treehouse to the top where it meets the path. All quotes were discussed by the Committee and deemed to be

very expensive. It was **RESOLVED:** that Councillor Torkington would contact a fencing company that had done work for her in the past to get a 3rd quote to compare against the other two quotes.

There was also a brief quote from A. Frost Design to replace the Fire Engine. There wasn't enough detail in the quote received so the Clerk will contact Andy Frost for some more design specifications. It was also **RESOLVED:** that the works to the playground surfaces were urgent and needed attention and the repair/replacement of the goal posts should go ahead asap. There is an item on next week's Full Council Meeting agenda to confirm the expenditure of this.

Councillor Robinson will write an article for the magazine to update residents why nothing is happening with the Playground improvements and that a new park is very much dependant on the Whartons Lane development, drain survey and Section 106 money coming forward to enable us to fund the project.

b. Recreation Ground – Additional Fencing to Finish off Dog Proofing

The Clerk has spoken to the Lengthsman this week and he has advised that he has completed the dog proofing on the section of fencing on the Lakewood Road side of the park from the gate down to the boundary outside number 25 before he ran out of fencing and ties. Councillor Robinson will check to see if this is now suitable and will advise if there are any other sections that need to be looked at.

c. Signage for Recreation Ground re Keeping Dogs Under Control

The Clerk presented Committee Members the artwork for the proposed signage as agreed at the February Full Council Meeting – black writing on a green background. Committee Members did not like this signage and opted for a yellow background with black writing and a border, much like the ground Nesting Birds signage that is currently around the Forest. Clerk to create a mock design and present to Members at the next Full Council Meeting next week.

17 Community & Environment**a. Sensory Garden**

The Clerk advised Committee Members that during a recent inspection visit in the Recreation Ground with the Chair, Councillor Hubbard and Tree Warden, Mark Bursey, he had advised that he was happy to help with advice for planting the Sensory Garden. As no one really had much experience as to what were the best types of plants to be planted there, it was **AGREED**: to form a Working Party comprising of Councillor Hubbard, Councillor White and Councillor Torkington to come up with a plan and specification of plants to be planted. Item to be deferred to a future agenda.

b. To Discuss an Allotment Committee involving Plot Holders

After a lengthy discussion, it was **AGREED**: not to have an Allotment committee involving plot holders.

c. To Arrange a Date for New Potential Plot Holders to View Plots

RESOLVED: The Clerk advised that she had several prospective new tenants waiting for plots and she would forward the details onto Councillors Hubbard and Torkington to arrange viewing and taking on the new plots.

18 Planters**a. Decision Required to Discuss Future Planting Requirements**

This item was deferred to the next agenda.

19 Village Design Statement**a. To Discuss Councillors Involvement in re-writing the VDS**

This item was deferred to the next agenda.

20 Next Meeting Date**a. To Agree the Next Meeting Date**

RESOLVED: The next Open Spaces Committee Meeting will be held on Tuesday 14th June 2023 at 2:30pm.

Meeting Closed at 3.32pm

Signed:

Date: _____