

Minutes of the Open Spaces Committee Meeting
Held on Tuesday 5th November 2024 at 10:15am
At the Colin Room, Church Rooms, Deerleap Lane, Colbury

Attending

Cllr Trevor Jakeman, (Chair), Cllr Caroline Smith, Cllr Bobbie Torkington (Vice-Chair), Cllr Clive White, Karen Cramoysan (Clerk), 2 Members of the Public

20 Apologies – Cllr Caroline Hubbard, Cllr Sue Robinson

21 Declarations of Interest - None

22 Public Participation – Tony Barron from the Allotments Committee thanked the Community Payback Team for doing a superb job on the ditch clearance but said that the last 20m still needs to be cleared between us and Totton. The ditch also needs clearing to the spring behind plot 10 to enable to ditch to work properly. He also advised that he has been made aware that 4 plot holders are not happy and will be giving up at the end of this year. He also asked questions on the following;

Was there a priority list for CPS to do works? Cllr Jakeman advised that they hadn't been given a priority list, it was all dependant on how many people turn up on the day, weather conditions and the time allocated to us, but if Tony had a list of items that were urgent, then we would relay that to the CPS team.

Who is responsible for cutting the boundary hedge inside? Clerk advised that the Council pays for the outside boundary hedge to be cut, but that she would add the inside hedge cutting to the CPS list.

23 To Receive Minutes of the Open Spaces Committee Meeting held on 13th August 2024 - RESOLVED: Minutes of the Open Spaces Committee Meeting held on 13th August 2024 were received and signed as an accurate copy

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

Allotment Drainage - Cllr Jakeman advised that the replacement drainage quote had been discussed at the October Full Council Meeting but was deferred until January 2025.

Recreation Ground - Cllr Torkington advised that there is a dog bowl full of stagnant water chained to our noticeboard which has slugs floating in it. She has tipped out the stagnant water and turned the bowl over on occasions, but it keeps being turned back and filling up with water. Cllr White seems to remember that someone had donated it on the condition that they kept it clean, but this isn't happening and Cllr Torkington was concerned that it was a health hazard for any dogs or wildlife using it. It was **AGREED**: that Cllr Smith's husband may be able to remove this with bolt cutters and the bowl will be kept safe in case the owner of the bowl wants it back.

25 Recreation Ground
a. To Discuss;

- 1. Remembrance Sunday Arrangements – RESOLVED:** Cllr Jakeman advised that he has the last post music downloaded ready to go, he has also ordered another mat for around the flagpole & solder and advised the following;
Attending Church Service – Cllr Jakeman
Flag Raising – resident Dennis.
Reading - Cllr Nutburn & Mark Harding.
Mince Pies - Cllr Trevor and Ann Jakeman.
Mulled Wine – Cllr Nutburn
Wreath Laying – Julie Harding and Cllr Hubbard.
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2. **Play Area** – the last couple of meetings have had to be cancelled, but the next meeting will be held on 20th November. Cllr Taylor is currently in the process of completing a CIL application for additional funding.
3. **Play Area Surfacing Repairs – RESOLVED:** carried out recently by Infinity Playgrounds.
4. **Fencing – RESOLVED:** these are due to be completed around 14th-15th November by Nightingale Groundcare.
5. **Lakewood Road Access – RESOLVED:** new tarmac area has recently been completed by JSN Arnold.

26 Community & Environment

- a. **Free Trees from Hampshire Forest Partnership** – After a lot of discussion it was **AGREED**: for the Clerk to contact the Mark Bursey our NFDC Tree Officer for his advice on what trees would be best placed in the Recreation Ground. Councillors are happy to meet him on site to advise which trees would be better placed where. Clerk will also check the deadline date for the application of the trees.

b. Allotments

1. **Vacant Plots** - Clerk advised that Plots 4 & 9 are now vacant and that the plot holder of Plot 16a will be giving up their plot at the end of the year. After contacting the majority of the non-resident waiting list who have been sitting on the list since 2016 and asking for confirmation that they still wanted to remain on the list, there are currently 28 non-residents, 12 of whom have been contacted recently by the Clerk and have confirmed that they would still like a plot. The only resident sitting on the list who has been contacted, would like to wait until next year due to their circumstances changing and not being ready at the moment to take on a plot and give it attention. It was **AGREED** that the Clerk would put a post out on Facebook to make residents aware that plots are available and that Cllr Torkington would also put an article in the next issue of the magazine.
2. **Plot 23 - RESOLVED:** Clerk advised that she had heard back from the tenant of Plot 23 and he still wanted to give up his plot at the end of the year. Tony Barron put across his concerns about the tenant's cousin having to vacate the plot and felt that she should be able to take it on due to the hard work and money already spent on the plot and that there had been nothing written in the tenancy agreement at the time of signing saying that she couldn't take it on if the tenant gave up. Cllr Jakeman explained that the decision made at October's Full Council meeting still stood as all Councillors felt that she shouldn't get the plot by default and it should be given to the next person on the waiting list. He also explained that the Council were looking at amending and tightening up the conditions on the Tenancy Agreements and bringing in a new Allotments Policy.
3. **To Arrange a Date for Allotment Inspections– RESOLVED:** Councillors agreed to have this on Thursday 14th November at 10am. As Councillor Hubbard was not at the meeting, they would need to confirm this date with her.
4. **Community Payback Team visit 16th October – RESOLVED:** Cllr Jakeman advised that they cleared a large length of the ditch that was clogged by growth from the railway embankment growing through the fence, cut back the overhanging growth along the car park fence and around the toilet, cut back the hedges by the entrance gate, and cleared the Foxhills School Plot 17B. There was only three people performing the work and they had to battle the poor weather on the day, but I think they achieved a great deal and should be commended for their efforts.
5. **To Review the Allotments Policy – RESOLVED:** Councillors were happy with the policy, but some wording needs to be amended. Clerk will get this changed and present it at the November Full Council meeting.
6. **To Look at the Allotments Tenancy Agreement – RESOLVED:** Some wording needs to be amended. Clerk will get this changed and present it at the November Full Council meeting.

27 Planters

- a. Precinct Benches Update** – The new benches are with the contractor now and the HCC licence runs from 1st to 30th November for installation. Clerk spoke with the contractor last week and they will advise a date for installation as soon as they have scheduled the work in.

19 Next Meeting Date

- a. To Agree the Next Meeting Date - RESOLVED:** The next Open Spaces Committee Meeting will be held on Monday 10th February 2025 at 2pm. Clerk to check if meeting room is free.
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Meeting Closed at 11:23am

Signed:

Date: _____