

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Community Facilities Committee
held in the Council Chamber, Yaxley Parish Council on 27th September 2016.**

Present:- Councillor G Bellamy - Chairman
Councillors C Bolton, R Butcher, P Croke, K Gulson, M Oliver, D Porteous, A Rees, J Willis and A Wood.

In attendance – H Taylor (Clerk), Reg Bingham (Tree Warden) and Councillor Bartle (for item CF34).

CF31. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence from the meeting were received from Councillors S Butler and J Lusted (both personal).

CF32. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

Councillors G Bellamy and K Gulson declared disclosable pecuniary interests in item CF35 by virtue of being Council allotment holders.

CF33. MINUTES

Councillor J Willis proposed approval of the Minutes of the Committee held on 26th July 2016. This was seconded by Councillor R Butcher and unanimously **RESOLVED**.

CF34. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Councillor A Bartle spoke on behalf of the residents of Pooley Way regarding the planned improvements to the adjacent Green Lane Park. Councillor Bartle explained that despite initially indicating that they did not wish for the trees and vegetation behind their houses to be cut back they were now in agreement that the height of the trees should be reduced. Concern was also voiced that the size of the wooded area in the park would be reduced.

(Following on from this item the Chairman agreed that item 39B Green Lane Park Improvements be discussed next)

CF39B. GREEN LANE PARK IMPROVEMENTS

Reg Bingham, Tree Warden, briefed Members on the background to the Green Lane site and explained that many of the trees had self-seeded and now required to be thinned. Councillor Croke added that she had visited the site with Reg to discuss a plan of action which included letting light to the central area, thinning out of the trees and cutting back the brambles. The work would start on the following Saturday and any offers of help would be welcome.

Members were reminded of the Tree Survey by the Clerk who reported that the area had been surveyed recently by a Tree Arboriculturist and a number of dead trees had been identified as requiring to be removed.

Councillor A Rees referred to the new path that had been laid as part of the improvements, calling it “fabulous”.

Councillor R Butcher mentioned

Councillor's Crooke wildlife expertise, commenting that Philippa and Reg were best placed to guide the Parish Council on the development of the site.

CF35. ALLOTMENTS

- **Inspection Update** – the Clerk explained that 16 letters had been sent out following the August inspection. Discussions then ensued as to when the inspections should take place with the Chairman questioning whether August was the right time of year to inspect. In response to which the Committee were of the opinion that the inspections should remain as they are.
The Chairman drew Members' attention to the dykes and roadways to the allotments which had not been cut back. In response to his questioning the Clerk explained that at no time had she been asked to get these areas cut and that she was under the impression that they did not belong to the Parish Council. With this in mind, Councillor Wood suggested that if Members had any information as to who owns these areas that they pass it on to the Clerk.
- **Rodent Survey results** - in response to a question by the Chairman the Clerk reported that a camera had been used in one of the Council's property to detect rodent activity but that no such survey had been undertaken on the allotments. At the same time, the Chairman drew the Clerk's attention to 3 allotments showing evidence of rats on Whiteheads. In response to which the Clerk reiterated that any sightings should be reported immediately to the office to enable the Pest Control Officer to attend the site. Given that this was not happening, it was agreed that an email should be sent out to allotment holders explaining this and that posters also be displayed at the allotments as well.
- **Waiting List** – Members were advised that of the 9 people on the waiting list, 7 have been offered allotments which are coming up for let between October and February.

CF36. VILLAGE MAINTENANCE – BUS SHELTERS

Having been advised that the bus shelters had been painted over the summer, it was asked whether the gates at the Cemetery could be painted, the Clerk will investigate.

CF37. LAND OUTSIDE THE CEMETERY

Having discussed improving an area of land on Dovecote Lane between the cemetery gates, it was suggested that this area should be grassed with the addition of wild flowers. Mention was then made of the condition of the cemetery fence on this stretch of road and Reg Bingham kindly offered the Countryside Group's services in planting an ornamental hedge before the fence breaks down. Whereupon, Councillor R Butcher proposed that both avenues be pursued. This was seconded by Councillor M Oliver and **RESOLVED**.

CF38. TREE WARDEN SCHEME

Members' attention was drawn to an email by Reg Bingham and a letter from Andy Moffat, Head of Development at the District Council, regarding the District Council's decision to cease funding a Tree Warden Co-ordinator post and the associated nursery. Members were advised that the post would be retained until 31st March 2017. Having explored a suggestion from the District Council that the post be funded by Town/Parish Councils, Members expressed disappointment that the scheme had been identified as a saving adding that it will discourage tree planting around Huntingdonshire. Whereupon,

Councillor K Gulson proposed that the Clerk respond to Mr Moffat to confirm that the Parish Council is interested in supporting the post and to ask what level of contribution would be expected and how many other Parish/Town Councils are interested.

CF39A. FIELD ON CHURCH STREET/WATERSLADE ROAD

Members were advised that a new licence had been awarded for the field.

CF40. EXCLUSION THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

That in accordance with Section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (admission to Meetings) Act 1960 and by reason of the confidential nature of the remainder of the business, the Press and Public be excluded from the meeting.

It was proposed by Councillor R Butcher and seconded by Councillor A Wood that the meeting should be closed to the press and public at 8.07pm.

CF41. PEST CONTROL CONTRACT - ALLOTMENTS

Members received a report prepared by the Clerk (a copy of which is appended in the Annex to the Minute Book) detailing 3 quotes received for the inspection/monitor of rats on Yards End and Whiteheads allotments. Whereupon, Councillor R Butcher proposed that G B Pest Control be awarded the contract and that the contract be brought back to the Committee in 3 years or before if it is deemed necessary. This was seconded by Councillor A Rees and **RESOLVED** unanimously.

CF42. PUBLIC BODIES (ADMISSION TO MEETINGS) ACT 1960 RE-ADMITTANCE OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC.

That in accordance with Section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 and by reason of the confidential nature of the remainder of the business being concluded, the Press and Public be re-admitted to the meeting.

It was proposed by Councillor R Butcher and seconded by Councillor A Wood that the press and public should be readmitted to the meeting.

Meeting closed at 8.15pm

Signed

Chairman.

DRAFT