

Swaffham Town Council.

Minutes of the **Open Spaces Committee Meeting** held on **Monday 25th March 2019** at **6.30pm** in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Swaffham.

Committee Members: Cllr J Skinner (in the chair)
Cllr's R Bartram, W Bensley, B Bowler, C Houghton, S Lister, S Matthews, A Thorp.

Councillors: P Darby

Non-Councillors: Mr M Edwards (Pest Control)
Mr N Chambers (Rotary Club)
Mr M Whitley (Rotary Club)

Public: 3

Town Clerk: Mrs C Smith
Admin Assistant: Ms K Furnass

1. Apologies for Absence.

1.1 Mrs S Palmer.

2. Declarations of interest.

There were no declarations of interest.

The meeting was adjourned at 6.33 for public participation -see appendix 1.

The meeting resumed at 6.45pm

3. Minutes of last meeting

The minutes of 21st January 2019 were agreed by the Committee and signed as a true record by the Chairman.

4. To Consider reports and/or issues relating to the following:

a. Rotary Club 50th Anniversary Committee Tree and Hedge Planting scheme –

Mr Chambers & Mr Whitley gave a brief explanation of the Rotary Club 50th Anniversary project to plant 50 trees, the first of which had recently been planted. It was thought to fill in any gaps around the Recreation Ground. They informed the meeting of a number of varieties that would be available and suitable. The hedges would also be helpful as they were a natural filter to pollution. The Rotary Club would arrange the maintenance of the new hedges for the first two years, after which time it would then come under the control of the Town Council.

The Deputy Clerk then mentioned that Sue Dent, the Project Support Officer, had achieved a successful bid in gaining a £24,000 award for "Pocket Park Plus". This would be used on the Oaklands play area for play equipment and hedging.

It was asked whether there was a possibility of any trees being planted on the Recreation Ground? Mr Chambers & Mr Whitley thought this could be a possibility and would look into it.

b. Recreation Ground update on Toilet refurb. Including consider artwork on the side wall –

The electric is now on and the meter installed. The water cannot be connected at the original point but must be supplied from the stand pipe already at the Recreation Ground. Written confirmation has been asked for. The Works Manger has costed the connection for the outside team to do the work and Councillors will be emailed for a decision on where the money is to come from.

There was a brief discussion on whether to add any art work/graffiti to the toilet block, but no firm decision was taken.

Initials: _____

Public Space Protection Order -

Two letters were circulated at the meeting regarding the article in the Swaffham Newsletter. Another letter received was being replied to directly by the Town Clerk.

The Deputy Clerk had attended a meeting at Breckland to discuss how to apply for a PSPO. It was confirmed that yes we do meet all the criteria, however there would need to be a period of consultation and investigation by Breckland in order to do this. Councillors also need to be aware that this would need to be policed to have any effect.

In discussions Councillors were in agreement that it would be difficult to educate the dog owners, but it needed to be done. Posters, letter drops and articles in the newsletter were all options put forward to try. It was suggested to go with dogs on leads at all times in the first instance.

The Committee were informed that a previous order in regard to alcohol was now out of date.

The Committee were asked how they wished to proceed, do they wish to put both orders forward. It was proposed to go forward and recommend to full Council that a formal request to Breckland for a Public Space Protection Order is made. The order should include that there should be no drinking alcohol in public spaces and that dogs should be kept on a lead. The order should relate to all public areas in the parish of Swaffham.

It was unanimously agreed to recommend to full Council that a formal request to Breckland for a Public Space Order is made. The order should include that there should be no drinking alcohol in public spaces and that all dogs should be kept on a lead. The order should relate to all public areas in the parish of Swaffham.

c. Allotments - to consider a request to take on an allotment – plus allotment report –

A request to take on half an allotment recently taken back by the Council, had been received from Miss K Fullilove. Miss Fullilove works for the Escape Project. Correspondence regarding this item was circulated at the meeting. It was proposed to allow Miss Fullilove the tenancy of half an allotment in her name under the regular terms & conditions.

It was agreed for Miss K Fullilove to have the tenancy of half an allotment in her name under the regular terms & conditions.

The Deputy Clerk informed the meeting that the Town Clerk was dealing directly with another matter.

Public Orders were suspended to allow a member of public to speak. 7.40pm

Mr P McMahon, the Tumbler Hill representative on the Allotment Sub Committee, read out a letter he had prepared referring to an emailed report sent from SCALGA to the Town Clerk about the Allotment sub Committee meeting. Mr McMahon was not happy with some of the content that concerned him and wished the Town Clerk to know it was inaccurate.

Public Orders were reinstated. 7.45pm

Mr M Edwards from pest control informed the meeting there was an ongoing problem with rats at Tumbler Hill. He was looking into how to educate tenants in regard to feeders.

He mentioned that he was also looking into changes of how the ducks were dealt with.

d. Churchyard & Cemetery price review –

Price comparisons had previously been circulated with the meeting pack. The Deputy Clerk ran through the list and gave a brief outline of the reasons behind the review.

In discussions that followed it was noted that Swaffham charges were considerably below neighbouring authorities. Costs also were much higher than the income from cemetery charges. It was suggested that the cemetery should in the least be cost neutral. Councillors asked for a

cost figure to cover outgoings and this should then be recommended then to bring to full Council. It was also asked to find out how long until the cemetery was at full capacity.

It was proposed for the Deputy Clerk to do a full costing of outgoings for the cemetery and to calculate when the cemetery would reach full capacity.

It was agreed for the Deputy Clerk to do a full costing of outgoings for the cemetery and to calculate when the cemetery would reach full capacity.

e. The Oaklands update on project –

A tabled press release will be going out once agreed with the ministry of housing pocket parks team.

f. Orford Road update on clear up – Swaffham Town Council outside team undertook the clear up work. This is now complete. Councillors asked for their thanks to be passed to the team.

g. Merryweather Road – nothing to report.

h. Campingland – Breckland are looking to hold an event to launch a litter picking initiative. Part of this would be a community shed to hold equipment, which Breckland would provide. This possibly would be managed by Icen. They have asked if the shed could be placed on the Campingland. They have also asked to use the Buttercross to promote the event.

It was proposed to allow Breckland the use of the Buttercross for an event, but not allow the siting of a shed on the Campingland.

It was agreed to allow Breckland the use of the Buttercross for an event, but it was agreed not to allow the siting of a shed on the Campingland.

i. The Shambles - a Councillor asked for the dumped shelves to be removed from the Shambles. The Deputy Clerk said she would look into this.

5. **To Consider a vulnerability assessment regarding the incursion of travellers on Council owned and managed land:**

The Town Clerk had visited the all Council owned sites to identify any risk and associated issues. There were two sites highlighted of which Orford Road was the prime site. At a recent Town Council meeting a gate had been offered for Orford Road. It was found not to be suitable but could be used on the Campingland access where there is nothing in place at this time. It was thought that bollards could be placed in front of the existing gates at Orford Road and at the Recreation Ground. Councillors were asked for their opinion on what sort of barriers they might like to see in place.

After discussions it was proposed to use the offered gate on the Campingland and to look into using bollards at Orford road and the Recreation Ground.

It was agreed to use the offered gate on the Campingland and to look into using bollards at Orford Road and the Recreation Ground.

6. **Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be Monday 20th May 2019.

Meeting Closed at 8.25pm.

Chairman.....

Initials: _____

APPENDIX 1

Two members of the public were invited to address the meeting.

They explained that there was a large dog walking community that used the Recreation Ground. It was not just a group of dog walkers but a social gathering as well. A chance for the elderly, amongst others, to meet and socialise. They thought the dog fouling issue was not as bad as made out and that there was nowhere else to take the dogs and allow them to run free. It was unfortunate that because of a few owners not prepared to clear up after their dogs that everyone who did was going to be penalised. They asked if it was possible for an alternative piece of land could be purchased for dog walking.

The Deputy Clerk informed the meeting of the background on why the Council wanted to look into banning dogs. The public's views would be taken into consideration.

Councillors mentioned that this conversation had been visited many times before and it needed to be taken forward. It was suggested that the dog walkers could self-police the area. The Town Council could look for potential other area's in the Town.

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