



Minutes of the Parks' Committee Meeting held in the Town Council Committee Room, Manor Offices, Holsworthy on Wednesday 20TH February 2019 at 5.30pm

Present: Cllr. Allen, Cllr. Briggs, Cllr. Hutchings, Cllr. Parker & Cllr. Stanton
In Attendance: Town Clerk (TC)
Assistant To The Town Clerk

927. Apologies for absence

None

928. Declaration of Interests

The Chairman requested that interests be declared as matters arose.

929. Minutes of last meeting

Cllr. Parker proposed that the Minutes of the Parks Committee held on 23rd January 2019, be signed as a true record. Cllr. Briggs seconded the proposal, which was carried. (Vote: 5 For, 0 Against, 0 Abstention).

930. Matters Arising

Item 920.

Cllr. Hutchings requested clarification of the CCTV coverage within Stanhope Park at night especially the coverage of the camera on the Playground light. The ATTC confirmed that both the light and the camera are working during the night and that the camera covers other areas of the Park as well but that she will investigate this further and report back.

931. To discuss and note the Parks' Expenditure and Budget for the year 18/19

The TC went through the Parks Expenditure and Income sheet.

It was explained that the cost of the jet washer would be taken as a virement from the Earmarked Reserve specifically for the Play Equipment Maintenance into the Parks Budget. The Reserve had been set up by the Council when the Playground was opened and did not have any set time limit on its spend. A new hedge trimmer has recently been purchased as the other one was beyond repair. The Parks budget is on target.

932. To give an update on the Rydon Fields Parish Path

Cllr. Allen gave a brief update on the Rydon Fields Foot Path and adjacent Ruby Country Wildlife area. There are still concerns about the state of the Footpath with areas cordoned off from the public by the developer of the adjacent housing site and broken lights. He has recently walked all the Paths that are open and has supplied the TC with a list of areas that require attention. Cllrs. Allen and Hutchings asked if the DCC Parish Paths Liaison Officer could be asked to supply the Council with an updated map of the Paths as the existing one used by the Council is out of date with several housing areas not shown.

933. To give an update and recommend to Council that it accepts the transfer to it of the recreational and play area within Station Close

The Recreational and Play area within Station Close is now at the stage where it could be transferred to the Council. The path that was overgrown, has now been trimmed back and the sloping area has been cleared of much of the overgrown vegetation. The area is to be transferred from the current owners with an additional sum of money to replace the old Play equipment. The Play area would need to be closed whilst the new equipment is sourced, tendered for and the work completed. The TC confirmed that 3 quotes will be obtained.

It is also intended that contractors are employed to dig out and re plant the sloping area. Once this is completed the Maintenance Assistant will undertake the general maintenance of the whole of the area owned by the Council

The land transfer would need to be approved at the next Full Council meeting but a recommendation from this Committee for approval of the transfer is sought from Members.

Cllr. Parker proposed that the Parks Committee recommend to Full Council that they agree the transfer of the Recreational and Play area within Station Close to the Council with an additional sum of money to be provided from the current landowners to replace the Play Equipment. Cllr. Allen seconded the proposal, which was carried. (Vote: 5 For, 0 Against, 0 Abstention)

934. Stanhope Park

The TC explained that at a recent Torridge District Council's (TDC) Mayors and Town Clerks meeting the District Council discussed a pilot dog warden authorisation scheme. Under the scheme TDC could authorise non TDC staff to administer fixed penalties for dog fouling .

Although any income raised by the fixed penalties for dog fouling would be shared between the TDC and the Council concerned the scheme would not be self-funding and would be at an additional cost to the Town Council. Other enforcement areas which could also be considered to become part of the warden scheme could be littering and other environmental offences. It is intended that a pilot scheme was carried out firstly in the Bideford/Northam areas where the amount of work could justify the expenditure. It was stressed that any pilot scheme would not affect the level of service currently given by the TDC Environmental Wardens to Town and Parish Councils.

Cllr. Allen stated that people are continuing to park on the area outside the Stanhope Park gates. The "No Parking" signs on the ground have worn off and need to be re-painted.

The Annual RoSPA inspection is due next month however one item of the play equipment is currently taped off, as new parts are needed. This play item will be repaired shortly and the gates to the playground area are to be altered so they close at a slower rate.

Cllr. Hutchings stated that the RBL are thinking of purchasing a bench to be placed around the Great Tree in The Square.

Cllr. Allen informed members that the Bowling Club are looking at erecting a portable wooden building with windows to provide storage in the winter and a viewing area in the summer. After discussion, it was agreed that the Pre Application to determine whether Planning Permission would be required be put in the name of the Council as the landowners. If Planning Permission is required, the Bowling Club would need to contact the Council again.

935. Badock and Rowland Gardens - To discuss matters relating to Badock Gardens and Rowland Gardens

A skip has been ordered to clear all the unwanted items and rubbish that has accumulated in Badock Gardens over the last few years.

The small storage area currently used by Plandscape to store some items will be emptied shortly. As the storage container is in a bad condition it is suggested that it be replaced with a metal container and used to store items brought in bulk i.e. soil, wood bark etc.

The main wooden gates to Badock Gardens are to be replaced to include a small gate to allow access for the Pre School Playgroup. Quotes would be needed for this work, preferably three.

936. Town Clerk's Report

The TC informed members that a letter had been received by TDC in relation to Connecting Actively to Nature, a project working with the County's Sport Partnership, Active Devon. The aim of the project is for the over 55 to become involved in outdoor activities particularly beach cleaning and canoeing.

Cllr. Hutchings pointed out the Holsworthy already has many clubs and interests which occur every week such as the Mens Shed, Walk and Talk, Yoga etc.

937. Close

Cllr. Allen closed the meeting at 6pm.

Signature **Date**