



Rushmere St. Andrew Parish Council

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"Seek The Common Good"



Minutes of the Environment and Services Committee meeting held on 4th October 2023 at 6.30pm at Village Hall

CHAIRMAN: Mr J Wright

PRESENT: Mr J Wright, Mr R Whiting, Mr J Westrup, Mr D Francis, Mr M Newton, Mr R Nunn, Mr B Ward, Mrs Odam, Mr K Driver

APOLOGIES: All present

CLERK: Mr P Massey - Clerk; Mrs S Stannard – Assistant Clerk. Minutes taken by Mrs Stannard

ALSO PRESENT: Member of the Public 0

1. APOLOGIES & APPROVAL OF ABSENCE, PROTOCOL AND CONDUCT REMINDERS

Mr Wright reminded Councillors of the Code of Conduct, protocol for debate and statutory rights to film, record, photograph or otherwise report on the proceedings of the meeting.

All members present.

2. TO SIGN AS A CORRECT RECORD THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 20th JULY 2023

Mr Newton proposed acceptance of the Environment and Services Committee minutes seconded by Mr Nunn with ALL in favour. The minutes were duly signed as a correct record.

3. DECLARATIONS OF COUNCILLOR INTEREST

Mr Wright declared a non-pecuniary interest in item 6c.

4. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

a. To Identify Public Participation with Respect to Items on this Agenda

None

b. Public Forum – Members of Public/Parish Councillors May Speak on Any Matter

Mr Newton advised councillors that he reported the repeater sign on The Street and that this has been rectified.

5. ALLOTMENTS

a. Report by Allotment Manager

Mr Westrup provided Councillors with an update on the allotments. He indicated that 4 half plots will become available soon, however some are in a poor state and will have to be cleared by contractors before it can be let again. There are no residents on the waiting list, however there is still a substantial waiting list for non-residents. The water infrastructure and track improvements have been completed. Mr Wright thanked Mr Westrup for managing the allotments and indicated that they are in an excellent state overall. Councillors noted this.

6. ENVIRONMENT AND LEISURE

a. Report on Play Areas

Mr Wright provided Councillors with a report on the play areas and what issues need to be addressed.

Mr Whiting proposed that quotes be sourced for the perimeter wall at Kelvedon Play Area. At several places the pointing is breaking away and that advice be sought from Councillor Nunn regarding the quotes received. Recommendations will be taken to either the Parish Council or the Environment and Services committee to address this issue. Seconded by Mr Nunn. Resolved with all in favour.

Mr Wright proposed that quotes be sourced to replace the infant swings at Yew Tree Play Area. Recommendations will be taken to the Parish Council or the Environment and Services committee to address this issue. Seconded by Mr Whiting. Resolved with ALL in favour.

Mr Wright proposed that quotes be sourced the significantly crown prune and removal of specified lateral branches to the Cherry Tree at the left rear of Chestnut Play Area and to crown prune the tree to the right rear of Chestnut Play Area. Seconded by Mr Whiting. Resolved with ALL in favour.

Mr Wright proposed that the blue perimeter fence at Tower Hall Play Area be painted green. Seconded by Mr Nunn. Resolved with ALL in favour.

b. Report back on Annual Walkabout of the Sandlings and Mill Stream Local Nature Reserves

Mr Wright provided Councillors with an update on the annual walkabout. In summary there has been a huge increase in vegetation and councillors were impressed by everything they saw. Mr Wright indicated that it was pointed out the huge cost and responsibility to maintain the local nature reserves. It was therefore recommended not to proceed with transfer of the nature reserves to the parish council. The Councillors were disappointed in the care of the Mill Stream waterway by Anglian Water with regards to effluent and water flow into the stream. Church Meadow is in a good condition and Greenways will add an information board to the area. It has been a good year for butterflies and dragonflies. Repair is needed to the path that leads down to the Commons. Councillors noted this.

c. To Consider and Approve Improvements to Walkways Bixley Farm

Mr Wright informed Councillors that several walkways and paths will be in the ownership of the Parish Council in due course. Maintenance will be required on the paths mentioned below and quotes for these were sourced from SCL Landscape management Ltd and Greenways. The quotes were as follows:

C1 (alongside the Water Tower) maintenance:

Greenways - £100 + VAT

SCL Landscape Management Ltd - £120 + VAT

Repair

Greenways – £395 + VAT for 20 m length will need some imported aggregate to build up over the exposed tree roots and bring it flush with the pavement at the eastern end

SCL Landscape Management Ltd – Type 1 granite footpath on the lane – £2,450 + VAT

A5 (Bixley Lane path):

Greenways - £100 + VAT if keep the path as it is on the short mown grass or £600 + VAT if exposing the tarmac path

SCL Landscape Management Ltd - £265 + VAT

A1 (back of Pardoe Place and Fairways):

Greenways - £380 + VAT this includes the off-spur at the north end and the larger open area at the southern end of the path near the dog bin. Would also include small amount of aggregate to bring the path flush with the concrete path at the southern end of the path near the dog bin.

SCL Landscape Management Ltd - £85 + VAT

Mr Driver asked whether the minor paths leading from A1 to Pardoe Place and Fairways can be opened and cleared. It was agreed to monitor the situation and review whether this would be necessary in the future.

Mr Driver proposed that Greenways be appointed to do the following work C1 - £100 + VAT for maintenance and £395 + VAT for repair of C1 path; £100 + VAT for A5 for maintenance only; £380 + VAT for maintenance A1. Seconded by Mr Newton. Resolved with MAJORITY in favour. Mr Wright abstained.

7. ROADS, VERGES AND FOOTPATHS

a. To Report on Speed Indicator Devices and Speedwatch

Mr Wright provided Councillors with a report on SIDS and Speedwatch in the parish. Councillors noted this.

8. REPORT BACK ON UPGRADING OF TAPS AT LAWN CEMETERY

Mr Wright provided Councillors with an update on this. A site meeting will be held on Monday, 9th October at the Lawn Cemetery to discuss this and Councillors will be provided with an update on this item at the next meeting.

9. CORRESPONDENCE & ANY OTHER MATTERS

a. To Note Matters Arising Since Publication of this Agenda

The Assistant Clerk made Councillors aware that further correspondence was received regarding banning of silk flower at the Lawn Cemetery. A reply as agreed at a previous Parish Council meeting was sent to the complainant. Councillors noted this.

b. Dates to Note

Parish Council - Thursday, 12th October at 7.30pm at Tower Hall

Parish Council - Thursday, 9th November at 7.30pm at Village Hall

Remembrance Service – Saturday 11th November at 10.45 at St Andrews Church, The Street. The Service will be followed by refreshments in the Church Hall

Remembrance Commemoration Light Display – Sunday, 12th November at 6pm at Tower Hall.

10. DETERMINATION OF ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDA

Paths Pardoe Place and Fairways.

Play Area resolutions.

11. CLOSE OF MEETING

The Chairman closed the meeting at 7.15pm.