

Report of the Grounds Committee to the Parish Council

The Committee met at 8.05 pm on **Monday 22nd September 2014**, in Committee Room 1 at the Parish Hall, Great Baddow. Cllr Mrs S Young chaired the meeting.

Present: Cllrs Mrs S Young, K Ronaldson, Mrs D Ronaldson, Mrs C Shaw, Mrs V Sadowsky, Mrs J Sosin, A Sosin and T Miller

In Attendance: The Clerk of the Council
 The Administrative Assistant
 The Grounds Manager
 The Deputy Grounds Manager

345/14 Apologies

There were apologies for absence from Cllrs J Fuller and T Hatcher.

346/14 Declarations of Interests

There were no declarations of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests, Other Pecuniary Interests or Registerable Non Pecuniary Interests.

347/14 Public Question Time

There were no members of the public present.

348/14 Minutes

The minutes from the last meeting held on 23rd June 2014 were signed as a true record, with the following amendments: Item 185/14, first line, delete "form" and insert "from" and Item 723/13 renumbered to read "187a/14". Presented and proposed by Cllr K Ronaldson and seconded by Cllr Mrs D Ronaldson.

349/14 Clerk's Report

1. Lawn Cemetery

The quotation for the laying on of power to the Lawn Cemetery is being investigated and should be incorporated into the budget.

2. Use of Open Space in the Recreation Ground

This issue is still being investigated and due to staff absences since the last meeting, the report has not been completed. It is hoped that the report can be presented to the December meeting. A recent complaint received will be incorporated into the report.

3. Duck Food

The Clerk has still to make enquiries with Chelmsford City Council about the sale of duck food.

4. Biodegradable Spray

The Clerk investigated the matter of biodegradable sprays for the removal of dog faeces. It seems that these sprays were available to buy for a very short space of time on American websites but then disappeared. On taking further advice it would seem that the sprays were possibly a scam.

5. Tree Warden

As there has been no contact from the Tree Warden, despite efforts to write to and e.mail him, this item will be removed from the agenda. It was agreed that a further advert should be placed in the Great Baddow Times.

6. S106 Monies for Playground Equipment

Due to the Clerk's absence on sick leave, this matter is still being followed up and the Clerk will be speaking to Chelmsford City Council.

7. Cemetery Mower

The Grounds Manager reported that he had attended the Saltex exhibition at the beginning of the month and he has confirmed that no-one makes a mower as small as the mower currently in use in the cemetery. A mower that may be viable for use in the cemetery has been sourced and it was agreed that this should be purchased from the current year budget and trialled.

350/14 Ground Manager's Report

1. The Grounds Manager reported that there is nothing to report except that the year so far has been a struggle because of the weather and the resultant growth of grass.
2. Cllr A Sosin asked the Grounds Manager whether he has inspected the seat on the green outside the White Horse PH. The Grounds Manager said that he has but that it cannot be painted because it is powder coated.
3. Cllr A Sosin asked the Grounds Manager whether a report had been done about the use of artificial grass in the cemetery. The Grounds Manager said that this should await the outcome of the assessment of the new cemetery mower.

351/14 Luxfield Report

The Clerk reported that she had received a short report from Mike Whalley of the Environmental Group about the work on Luxfield. It was reported that the working party had met on 3rd August 2014 and there were eight people present. They trimmed back the side of the access path, chopped out a large number of oak saplings from the open area and cut back some more brambles from beside the main path. The group was thanked for its work.

The Clerk and the Grounds Manager reported that the Grillo machine that had been hired during August from Dalehire had worked well and that a lot of brambles had been cleared from a number of areas.

352/14 Land O/S The White Horse PH

The Clerk told the meeting that she had spoken to the officer at Essex County Council about the letter that was written but that it appeared that the letter had been forwarded to Chelmsford City Council. It was suggested that a reply from the City Council is awaited before any further action is undertaken. Cllr A Sosin said that he would chase up this matter at the City Council.

353/14 Forward Plan

The Clerk circulated an updated copy of the Forward Plan, which was discussed and the updates noted.

354/14 Budget

1. Review of Budget Spending for 2014/2015 – A report had been circulated prior to the meeting and was noted
2. To consider the first draft budget for 2015/2016 – A report had been circulated prior to the meeting and was discussed. The following changes were made to the draft budget:
 - Item 3150 GC – Luxfield – increased from £500 to £900
 - Item 3277 GC – Football Pitch Income – decreased from £3712 to £3100
 - Item 3278 GC- Tennis Courts Income – decreased from £2432 to £1000
 - Item 3281 GC – AWSC Hire – decreased from £11705 to 7500

Item 3377 GC – Lawn Cemetery Income – decreased from £63345 to £60000

It was agreed that £5000 should be added to the Council budget for earmarked reserves for the cemetery roads and that a quote should be obtained for bird lap fencing along the roadway to the Community Association.

The Clerk was asked to speak to Chelmsford City Council about the use of future CIL contributions to replace the swings in the Recreation Ground.

It is hoped that a grant application will be made for monies towards the re-surfacing of the All Weather Sports Courts and that a grant application should be investigated for the refurbishment of the changing rooms.

It was agreed that the budget, with the proposed amendments, should be referred to the Finance and General Purposes Committee. Proposed by Cllr Mrs S Young and seconded by Cllr Mrs C Shaw.

355/14 Matters for Information

- Cllr Mrs J Sosin reported that she has been invited by the Rotary Club of Chelmsford Mildmay to speak about the role of the Parish Council and has accepted.
- Cllr Mrs S Young offered her congratulations to the office staff for the Breakfast for McMillan that had been run on 19th September 2014. The Administrative Assistant told the meeting that £180.35 had been raised.

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 9.28 pm.

Signed.....Dated.....