

# **Report of the Grounds Committee to the Parish Council**

The Committee met at 8.25 pm on **Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2014**, in Committee Room 1 at the Parish Hall, Great Baddow. Cllr K Ronaldson chaired the meeting.

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

In Attendance:       The Clerk of the Council  
                              The Grounds Manager

## **179/14 Apologies**

There were apologies for absence from Cllrs T Hatcher and Mrs S Young, who had substituted Cllr Mrs M Miller.

## **180/14 Declarations of Interests**

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

## **181/14 Public Question Time**

There were no members of the public present.

## **182/14 Minutes**

The minutes from the last meeting held on 24<sup>th</sup> March 2014 were signed as a true record. Presented by Cllr K Ronaldson and proposed by Cllr K Ronaldson and seconded by Cllr Mrs D Ronaldson.

## **183/14 Clerk's Report**

### **1. Lawn Cemetery**

The quotation for the laying on of power to the Lawn Cemetery is being investigated and will be able to be considered for factoring into the budget for 2015/16.

### **2. All Weather Sports Court Gates**

The installation of gates in the upper fence of the All Weather Sports Courts has now been completed.

### **3. Trees in the Recreation Ground O/S Roberts Court**

The Grounds Manager reported that the condition of the horse chestnut tree on the corner of the driveway, near the Grounds Office is still good. The tree will continue to be checked as part of the normal schedule.

### **4. Use of Open Space in the Recreation Ground**

This issue is still being investigated and a report will be placed before the committee in September 2014.

### **5. Tree Warden**

The Clerk has tried to contact the tree warden but has not had any reply. The Clerk has also spoken to one of the officers at Chelmsford City Council but they have not heard from him recently.

### **6. Duck Food**

The Clerk will be making enquiries of Chelmsford City Council about the notices and the sale of duck food.

### **7. Memorial Tree in the Recreation Ground**

The Clerk reported that the family decided to have a plaque after all and this has been obtained. The Grounds Manager said that the plaque will be installed tomorrow. All monies have now been received for the tree and the plaque and a photo will be sent to the family.

## **8. May Fair**

The Clerk has contacted the May Fair representative and the idea for use of the remaining funds is still about replacing the fencing at the green outside the White Horse PH. Enquiries are being made of Essex County Council Highways about taking on the maintenance of the area.

### **184/14 Ground Manager's Report**

1. The Grounds Manager reported that the mower that is used in the cremation plots area in the Lawn Cemetery is no longer repairable and he is unable to find a suitable replacement. The machine itself has not been manufactured for some years. The lack of the machine will cause a problem if a solution is not found. It was suggested that the installation of artificial grass should be investigated and it was agreed that a report should be put to the next committee meeting.
2. Cllr A Sosin asked the Grounds Manager whether the holes in the car park at the Community Centre have been repaired. The Grounds Manager said that the repairs were affected today.
3. Cllr A Sosin asked the Grounds Manager whether the T Card system for scheduling work, introduced in 2011 following a consultant's report and recommendations is working and the Grounds Manager said that it is working well.

### **185/14 Luxfield Report**

The Clerk reported that she had received a short report from Mike Whalley about the work on Luxfield and this was circulated. There was a working party on 6<sup>th</sup> April 2014 and a second session is planned for August. In April, the group worked to clear brambles and saplings were removed in order to maintain a glade. Other trees were cleared of vegetation. The group was thanked for its work.

Despite the work that had been completed, the brambles are still growing. The Clerk and the Grounds Manager said that they are trying to hire a machine from the City Council to undertake this work.

### **186/14 Land O/S The White Horse PH**

The Clerk told the meeting that she has tried to make contact by telephone with an officer at Essex County Council to discuss the Parish Council taking over the maintenance of the area outside the White Horse PH. Unfortunately the telephone is not being answered and so a letter has been written asking the County Council to contact the Clerk to discuss the matter.

Cllr A Sosin asked if it would be possible to paint the seat near the green and it was agreed that the Ground Manager will inspect the seat and if re-painting is possible, it will be added to the maintenance schedule.

### **187/14 Forward Plan**

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

### **723/13 Matters for Information**

- Cllr J Fuller asked who the Old Burial Ground belongs to. It was explained that the closed churchyard area belongs to the church but under the order is maintained by Chelmsford City Council. The area furthest from the church that is bordered by Baddow Place Avenue and The Bringey belongs to the Parish Council.

- Cllr J Fuller said that he has looked online for mowers and that 12” mowers are available. The Grounds Manager said that he will make further investigations.

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 9.15 pm.

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