

Report of the Grounds Committee to the Parish Council

The Committee met at 8.02 pm on **Monday 27th June 2016**, in Committee Room 1 at the Parish Hall, Great Baddow. Cllr Mrs S Young chaired the meeting.

Present: Cllrs Mrs S Young, Mrs J Sosin, Mrs C Shaw, A Sosin, T Miller, K Liley, Mrs D Ronaldson, K Ronaldson, J Fuller and Mrs M Miller

In Attendance: Three members of the public – Mr Michael Whalley (teg),
Cllr Gillian Smith (Chelmsford City Council) and one
parishioner
The Clerk of the Council

Before the meeting opened, the Chairman advised those present about the Recording and Use of Social Media at Council Meetings Policy.

183/16 Apologies

There were apologies for absence from Mrs V Sadowsky, who had substituted Cllr Mrs M Miller.

184/16 Declarations of Interests

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

185/16 Minutes

The minutes from the last meeting held on 29th March 2016 were signed as a true record. Presented and proposed by Cllr Mrs S Young and seconded by Cllr K Ronaldson.

186/16 Public Question Time

There were three members of the public present, who were all there to speak about the proposal by teg for work at Luxfield. Questions were asked about the work that was being proposed, particularly the work at the entrance. It was also noted that there have been problems with motorcycles on the land.

Cllr Gillian Smith also asked about the Lawn Cemetery and the current problems being experienced with maintenance. The Chairman explained about the Parish Council's current staffing difficulties but assured Cllr Smith that the Council is fully committed to maintaining the cemetery to its usual standards. Steps are being taken to employ contractors and they would be starting work very shortly.

The Chairman proposed that the agenda item relating to Luxfield was moved forward and this was agreed unanimously by the meeting.

187/16 Luxfield

Following discussion it was proposed by Cllr J Fuller and seconded by Cllr Mrs D Ronaldson that no work should take place at the entrance but that the clearing of the middle area and the installation of seats there should take place. This was agreed unanimously. Teg were thanked for their work on this project.

188/16 Clerk's Report

1. **Noticeboard, Cigarette Bin and Litter Bin in Recreation Ground**
The litter bin and the cigarette bin have not yet been installed due to the current staffing difficulties.
2. **Use of Open Space in the Recreation Ground**
This matter is still being pursued as part of the Grounds Review. The Clerk reminded the meeting that this matter is about the use of the open space by groups, organisations and private individuals for functions and events.
3. **Land O/S The White Horse PH**
In the current circumstances, it was agreed that this is not a priority matter and will be taken off the agenda and diarised for a date in the future.
4. **Church Wall**
The ownership of the wall still needs to be investigated with Chelmsford City Council. The wall has been repaired and is safe but in the current circumstances, it was agreed that establishing the ownership is not a priority matter and the matter will be diarised for a date in the future.
5. **Recreation Ground Changing Rooms**
The Clerk still needs to speak with Cannon Hygiene about the hand dryers.
6. **Website**
The Clerk is still investigating putting directional information about Baddow Hall Park onto the Parish Council's website.
7. **Trees in Noakes Place**
The Clerk has been contacted by Chelmsford City Council and has been told that a tree survey was carried out last year. All the works recommended by the survey have been undertaken.

189/16 Recreation Ground

1. **Hard Tennis Courts** – Following discussion it was proposed by Cllr Mrs S Young and seconded by Cllr Mrs J Sosin that the hard tennis courts should be open and free for use during the day and early evening on a trial period until the end of September. The courts will be opened in the morning but kept locked at night. The vote was unanimous.
2. **Rothmans Place Entrance** – A quote had been received from Chelmsford City Council to undertake work to the barriers at the entrance to the Recreation Ground at Rothmans Place. It was proposed by Cllr A Sosin and seconded by Cllr Mrs C Shaw that the work takes place. The vote was unanimous.
3. **Proludic Play Equipment** – The Clerk reported that complaints had been received about the safety surfacing under the Proludic equipment in the Recreation Ground. It was also noted that the matter had been raised in the Annual Inspection. It was proposed by Cllr A Sosin and seconded by Cllr K Liley that the Clerk should be allowed to undertake repairs to the surface under the equipment on Health and Safety grounds and that the money should be taken from reserves. The vote was unanimous.

Cllr K Ronaldson reported that a slab on the patio area outside the Community Association needed attention. The Clerk told the meeting that the area is the responsibility of the Association and not the Parish Council. Cllr A Sosin said that he had reported the matter to the manager, Jon Eagle.

190/16 Forward Plan

The Clerk told the meeting that only one matter had been updated and so the Forward Plan had not been copied and a verbal report will be made.

The result of the grant application to Inspired Facilities was now known and it had not been successful. The Clerk will instead contact the Essex FA about grant funding, although the scheme is more onerous than that of the Inspired Facilities grant.

191/16 Matters for Information

- Cllr Mrs J Sosin told the meeting that Ps Perry Land had visited the Great Baddow Market and that she had spoken to him. Ps Land had told Cllr Mrs J Sosin that he had spoken to the bike rider in the Recreation Ground, although he was off-duty at the time. It was noted that the bike rider has not been seen in the Recreation Ground for some time.
- Cllr K Ronaldson noted that the outdoor table tennis tables were once again available in the district. The Clerk confirmed that the Council had not been approached to host a table this year and she will speak to the City Council to find out why not.

192/16 Private and Confidential

It was resolved that the meeting would be closed to the public and press under the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted in the following items. Proposed by Cllr Mrs S Young and seconded by Cllr K Ronaldson.

193/16 Staffing

1. Current Staffing Situation - The Clerk reported that following advice, a groundsman has been medically suspended, pending an appointment with Occupational Health. The paperwork has been sent to them and a date is awaited.
2. Internal Grounds Review Working Group – There was discussion about the report of the Working Group’s meeting on 20th June 2016. The Clerk confirmed that TUPE arrangements would be made if the Council decided to contract out all its services. Cllr A Sosin expressed concerns about the length of any contracts and the budgetary requirements. The Chairman said that the length of contract would be stipulated by the Council and that the cost would have to be within current budgets. Cllr A Sosin also asked about the current staff’s working hours and the Chairman said that advice was being taken from the HR advisers at Wirehouse Employer Services. It was proposed by Cllr Mrs C Shaw and seconded by Cllr Mrs J Sosin that the option of a mixture of employed staff and contracting out should be taken forward for costing. The vote was unanimous.

194/15 Bowling Club Lease

The Internal Grounds Review Working Group had made comments on the draft heads of Term and these have been passed to the Council’s solicitors.

195/16 Noakes Place Agreement

The Clerk told the meeting that she will be meeting with Paul Van Damme and Mike Keen from Chelmsford City Council on 1st July 2016 to discuss the new agreement.

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 9.30 pm.

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