

## HARTING PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of **Play and Open Spaces Advisory Committee (POSAC)** held at  
**7.30 pm** in the **Law Room, Harting Parish Church, South Harting**  
on **Wednesday 11 September 2019**

**Present:** Mr Shaxson (Chair) (AS), Mrs Bramley (SB), Mr Claydon (JC), Mrs Curran (PC), Mrs Dawson (SD), Mr Gladwyn (BG), Mr Mackay (BM) and Mr Palmer.

In attendance: Mrs Walker (Parish Clerk) (TW).

**1. Apologies for absence:** Mr Bonner.

**2. Declarations of interest:** None.

### **3. Minutes from Meeting held on 28 May 2019**

The minutes were approved and signed by the Chairman as a true record.

### **4. Matters arising:**

#### **4.1. Painting of bench in South Gardens**

It was agreed that it would be necessary to coat the metal bench with Etch primer before painting to ensure the paint adheres. SD will do this.

#### **4.2. Safety equipment for ponds**

This item is still outstanding and will be arranged as soon as possible.

*Action: clerk to order lifebelt*

#### **4.3. New slide**

The new slide has been installed and there have been positive comments.

There is concern that the replacement flooring is starting to lift.

*Action: Clerk to contact contractor*

#### **4.4. South Gardens signage**

The suggestions for signage are still to be developed.

*Action: SB and SD to consider some options to discuss at next POSAC meeting*

#### **4.5. Purchase of Furze Meadow**

The Hyde & CDC asset review is still underway with Part 2 of the review due in November. It appears that this review will form a policy framework rather than guidance on specific sites. It seems that a lease could be agreed with the Parish Council, however it would have a 5 year break clause which would mean no public money or grants could be spent on the site.

The members agreed that a meeting should be encouraged with the Hyde Estates Manager to ensure they commit to improving the play area.

*Action: TW to contact Jo Casey again to request on site meeting with Estates Department.*

#### **4.6. Ponds in South Gardens**

AS had contacted the neighbouring land owner with regard to the spoil from the ponds and the possibility of spreading it on the land. However, there was no further progress at this stage.

It was noted that the silt had built up over a long period of time and was mostly due to leaves. It was agreed that the situation should be reviewed regularly with the hope that a resolution may be found in the next couple of years.

JC confirmed that he had carried out a survey of the depth of the silt in the ponds and in places it was up to 1.3 metres. The information gathered will enable an estimate of the cubic metres of spoil to be removed if that becomes an option. The data will be held by the clerk.

#### **4.7. Metal caging to protect lights**

HABAC is currently investigating a new lighting system for the village pathway, however it had been suggested at an earlier POSAC meeting that metal cages could be made to protect the current lights while this was underway. It was agreed that Petersfield Forge should be approached to provide a price.

*Action: BG will speak to a local man that runs the Forge.*

### **5. Proposal from Just Giving village group**

A local group had raised some funds through a Just Giving page following the traveler incursion into South Gardens in July. The group would like to raise funds to improve the equipment in South Gardens. Unfortunately, due to illness, they were unable to attend the meeting so it was agreed that BM and the clerk would arrange to meet with them at a separate time.

*Action: Clerk and BM to arrange meeting.*

### **6. Security gate and fencing at the entrances to South Gardens and the Warren**

It was agreed that following the imminent tree works in South Gardens and the Warren that the three entrances ie: South Gardens, opposite the road junction and at the top of the Warren, should be properly secured. The barrier style gates were considered to be the most secure method and it was felt these should be investigated. It was thought that the cost would be in the region of £800 per gate, the installation cost would also need to be considered. The wooden gate at South Gardens would be left in the current position and in front of a barrier to help the visual impact.

*The following recommendation was made:*

*that the committee recommend the Council agree to investigate the purchase of three barrier style gates to secure access to South Gardens and the Warren and agree the purchase price and installation costs of up to £4,000.*

*Action: AS to approach contractors for quotes.*

### **7. Update from car parking area working group**

The Car Park Working Group had met to decide how the area should be managed. It is fully insured for public liability under the Council insurance. There was no intention of trying to recoup costs of the purchase by charging for usage at this point in time.

The purchase of the area does allow the Council to move ahead with the proposal of placing a safer crossing to South Gardens which would run through the northern end of the car park.

There will be ongoing costs in relation to the car park. The large pot hole at the entrance to the area will be repaired by a local landowner at no cost to the Council.

Notices of liability will need to be posted up, however wooden posts cannot be easily placed in the ground. It was suggested that the neighbor may allow a notice to be pinned on the fence at the southern end of the area.

The clothing bank in the area will also need removing.

*Action:*

*TW to contact CDC regarding clothes bank removal*

*AS to contact neighbour regarding liability notice*

## **8. Winter maintenance programme**

It was felt the volunteer sessions would start in the new year once the leaves had all fallen. The sessions will be advertised more widely and people will be asked to sign up to help.

AP offered to clear the leaves from the entrance area to South Gardens once the leaves have fallen as this makes a huge difference to the conditions underfoot in that area when the weather worsens.

AS and BG will discuss the tools that may be purchased to aid the working parties, the Council agreed a sum of £500 earlier in the year.

JC has been continuing to work in the pond areas to remove the reeds and root systems. It is hoped that this will aid the flow of water from the top pond.

## **9. Repair and rebuild of flint wall around the car parking area**

There is a need to repair the pillar at the entrance to the car park, and it is suggested that a brick pillar would be the easiest option.

*Action: clerk/AS to get quotes for the work.*

## **10. Play Area updates**

The play area inspections are due to take place in the next few weeks, a date is to be confirmed.

## **11. Tree update**

It is hoped the proposed tree works to remove the ash in the areas of South Gardens and the Warren will take place in early October. The original timescale was end of September, but due to severe delays to the processing of the Felling Licence by the Forestry Commission the dates are having to be adjusted. The contractor has been able to move start dates which has been helpful.

A definite start date and notification to all parties affected by the works will be issued once the Felling Licence issue date is confirmed by the Forestry Commission.

## **12. Any other business**

- i. The clerk will send an email to the committee members to request items for future agendas.
- ii. AS thanked BG for removing the fallen cherry tree.
- iii. JC reported that he had removed a considerable number of crayfish from the middle pond in South Gardens and would continue to do this.

**13. Date of next meeting:** Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> November at 7.30pm, venue to be agreed.

The meeting closed at 8.50pm