

HARTING PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of **Play and Open Spaces Advisory Committee (POSAC)** held at
7.30 pm in the **Congregational Church Hall, South Harting**
on **Tuesday 26 November 2019**

Present: Mr Shaxson (Chair) (AS), Mr Bonner (TB), Dr Bowman (SB), Mr Claydon (JC), Mrs Curran (PC), Mrs Dawson (SD) and Mr Palmer (AP).

There was one member of the public.

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

1. Apologies for absence: Mrs Bramley.

2. Declarations of interest: None.

3. Minutes from Meeting held on 11 September 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

This has been completed, thanks were given to SD for doing 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. Flooring by new slide

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

Action: Clerk to contact contractor to raise concern

4.4. South Gardens signage

The suggestions for signage are still to be developed, consideration needs to be given to the recommendations in the Play Area inspection report.

4.5. Purchase of Furze Meadow

An on-site meeting had been held with the Estates Manager in October and an equipment inspection appears to have been carried out as the swings have been removed. Further contact is awaited from the Estate Manager to confirm the situation.

Action: TW to ask Estate Manager for update.

4.6. Metal caging to protect lights

BG had gathered a quote from the Petersfield Forge to create metal cages to protect the footpath lights. Unfortunately, it has been discovered that the current lights are not in a good condition and so replacement lights are needed which will negate the need for the cages.

4.7. Security Gates for the Warren and South Gardens

The Council had agreed at the October meeting to the purchase of three barrier style gates to secure the entrances to South Gardens and the Warren.

There is still some tree works to be completed in the area in the week beginning 9 December as there has been a delay waiting for SSE to agree a date to shut off the power in the line passing through the southern end of South Gardens.

Once all the work has been completed and the timber has been removed, the contractors will be placing a bund across the loading bay entrance.

Action: AS to approach contractors for quotes for barrier gates and installation.

5. Trees

AS reported on the progress of the recent tree works, the majority of the work had been completed with a further tranche of work to be carried out in the week beginning 9 December once SSE had cut the power to the line in South Gardens. It was noted that the area was looking at it's worst at that point and that time will allow the area to regenerate and heal.

The Tree Working Group had been in place for 3 years, originally formed to progress the need to the area surveyed. The work of the group had progressed from this to the ash dieback which had become apparent in the last 12 months. The Working Group was formed outside of the POSAC remit, reporting directly to the Council, as it needed to enable swift decisions.

It was proposed that the Tree Working group should now be disbanded and that a Tree and Woodland sub-committee should be formed as part of POSAC, but with the remit to go straight to the Council if needed. It was proposed that the sub-committee should initially be made up of the members of the former Tree Working Group with additional membership once the direction of the necessary works is known.

The members agreed this approach by a majority vote.

Action: SB to write TOR's for the Tree and Woodland sub-committee

6. Play area inspection report

The Play Area inspection report had been circulated to the members and the various issues were discussed.

There were no high risk issues noted, however there were a few minor repairs required to the equipment and surrounding benches. It was agreed that TW would obtain quotes for this work to be carried out.

The report gave the area a medium risk overall due to the close proximity of the road and the ponds. The members discussed the suggestion that 'the Council give consideration to fencing the ponds' and felt that further information should be sought from the Council insurers with regard to ponds and play areas. It was felt that with proper signage and permanent life saving equipment the situation may be deemed acceptable.

Action: TW to obtain quotes for recommended works to the play area and equipment

TW to contact the insurers regarding the play inspection recommendations

7. Winter Maintenance Programme

It was agreed that the South Garden Working Parties earlier in the year had been a great success. There is further work to be carried out early next year, particularly making good areas that have been affected by the recent tree works.

The dates were set for two Working Parties to take place on Saturday 11 January and Saturday 22 February starting at 9.30am. The events will be advertised on the village Facebook page and notices at the entrance to South Gardens.

The Council had agreed to purchase tools up to the value of £500 for this purpose, these are still to be organised.

Action: TW to advertise Working Parties

AS/BG to consider tools to be purchased

8. Car parking area

The pothole at the entrance to the car park is of concern as it is increasing in size. The local resident who had offered to fill the hole is yet to carry out the work and will be contacted to see if they are still willing.

The pier at the end of the wall will be rebuilt by another local resident when the weather improves. It is hoped that a place to erect a sign will be incorporated in the new pier.

The car park liability sign has not been placed at this time as it is proving difficult to erect a post. It was agreed that an approach should be made to the owner of the neighbouring property to ask if a sign can temporarily be placed on their fence.

It was noted that the wall surrounding the car park would need to be repaired at some point, it was agreed that there may be local volunteers who may have the necessary skills to help with this.

Action: AS to contact local resident regarding the pothole

TW to contact neighbour regarding the sign

9. Any other business

- i. It was noted there was a petition in the Village Stores to “save the clump” on the Downs. It was noted that this was under the ownership of the National Trust.
- ii. JC raised the issue of the silt problem in the pond and asked the members to consider the option of removing some of the silt, by the pumping method discussed in previous meetings, and relocating it in the area of the Warren. This would obviously depend on the distance that the silt could be pumped as well as the view of Natural England as the area is registered as SNCI.

Action: TW to ask contractors to confirm pumping distance

TW to seek Natural England view

10. Date of next meeting: Tuesday 11 February at 7.30pm, venue to be agreed.

The meeting closed at 8.50pm