

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 28 May 2019**

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

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

1. Apologies for absence: Mr Palmer.

2. Declarations of interest: None.

3. Minutes from Meeting held on 5 March 2019

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

4. Progress since last meeting:

4.1. Working Parties in South Gardens

The Working Parties held in South Gardens earlier in the year have been very successful and many comments have been received about the vast improvement in the area. The work has had to stop until the autumn due to bird nesting.

4.2. Safety equipment for ponds

The equipment will shortly be on order and the members agreed that the lifebelt station will be installed by members of the POSAC. The ideal location for the unit will be on the corner between the two ponds where it can be easily visible and accessible.

Action: clerk to order lifebelt

working party to install

4.3. Play equipment repair and replacement in South Gardens

The twizzler has been replaced and the swings and associated area have been updated. The new slide installation has been delayed as the slide was damaged on delivery, a replacement is anticipated mid-June.

4.4. South Gardens signage

The signage for South Gardens was discussed, and the members agreed that the signage needs to be welcoming, but at the same time clearly state what can and can't be done in the area. It was suggested that perhaps the sign should welcome and then refer to the Council website for further information.

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

4.5. Purchase of Furze Meadow

In 2018 the Council had negotiated with Hyde and agreed to purchase the area of Furze Meadow for the sum of £1 subject to heads of terms being agreed. Unfortunately, shortly prior to the completion of the sale Hyde and CDC decided to carry out an asset review of land holdings. This took a considerable time and they recently confirmed they were no longer willing to sell the area of

the Furze Meadow play area to the Council. They would be happy to offer a lease of 15-20 years with a 5 year break clause. AS suggested he contact CDC to see if such a lease was in place and Hyde decided to use the break clause whether they could be responsible to pay back any grants.

Hyde appear to be willing to upgrade the area to that which the Council would have installed had it purchased the area.

It is important to push Hyde to invest and upgrade the area as they have indicated whilst investigating the lease options.

Nyewood are holding a village fete on 23 June 2019 and it was agreed that an invitation would be sent to Hyde to attend the event.

Action: PC to forward invitation to TW who will pass to Hyde.

AS to contact CDC regarding leases.

4.6. Fences and gates for the Warren

The western boundary of the Warren needs to have permanent boundary markers to replace the current temporary ones constructed of tree shelters. The boundary marking is particularly important as it is a requirement for grant applications from the Rural Payments Agency and hence the Forestry Commission.

There is also a need for permanent barriers at the southern end of the Warren, and at the eastern side opposite the Chichester junction. Post and bar fittings would be suitable for the southern end, but the eastern side may require some banking to limit the access area.

AS and BG agreed to meet to draw up a specification for the posts and barriers so quotes can be sought from local contractors.

Action: AS and BG to draw up specification for quotes

5. Ponds in South Gardens

SD had provided details of a company based in Norfolk who were able to remove silt from ponds using a hose system which remove the spoil by a distance of up to 1000 metres. This was considered a reasonable option, however the problem of where to place the spoil is still the major stumbling block. If it were moved by vehicle the costs would still be very high.

It was agreed that TW should approach the neighbouring landowner again to see if they might be able to reconsider their position.

Action: TW to contact the neighbouring landowner

6. Plans for future Working Parties

The Working Parties will continue in the autumn once the nesting season has passed. AS, BG and SD will assess the next areas of work to be undertaken.

7. Trees in South Gardens requiring works and planning permission

The continuation of work in South Gardens may require some further tree works. As South Gardens sits within the conservation area planning permission would be required. As part of the assessment of the next areas for the Working Parties, AS, BG and SD will note any trees that may fall into this category. A detailed plan will be required for the planning application.

Action: AS, BG and SD to log any potential tree works.

8. Woodland sub-committee

AS gave details of the work of the Tree Working Group (TWG) which had been operating for the last 2 years. It is hoped that this will eventually become a sub-committee of POSAC but at this stage, with major issues surrounding ash dieback, it will continue in its current capacity to ensure the necessary works are done.

The TWG is also working with Petra Billings, following Council approval, who is creating a Woodland Management Plan for the area.

It was agreed that a recommendation would be made to the Council that BM should become a part of the TWG.

9. Any other business

- i. SD is happy to repaint the metal bench alongside the pond.
- ii. BG suggested that a metal cages could be made by Petersfield forge to cover the vandalized lights on the village footpath. This would be a deterrent and may provide a solution until a new lighting system can be investigated. This would be passed to HABAC (Highways and Byeways Committee) for consideration.

10. Date of next meeting: to be arranged by clerk