

## **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 5 March 2019**

**Present:** Mr Shaxson (acting Chairman) (AS), Mrs Dawson (SD), Mr Palmer (AP), Mr Gladwyn (BG), Mr Claydon (JC).

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

There were no members of the public in attendance

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

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

**3. Minutes from Meeting held on 8 January 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**

Three Working Parties have been held in South Gardens, and a great deal of clearance work around the ponds has been undertaken. There was a regular core of about 8-10 volunteers. There has been some very positive feedback from local residents. The work will now be on hold until Autumn 2019 due to the start of the nesting season.

It was noted that some temporary fencing will be purchased and used by future Working Parties to block pathways and to place around bonfires and the remaining embers until they are cold.

The condition of the trees on the islands in the pond was discussed, and it was agreed that advice would be sought from Henry Whitby, the Tree Officer at Chichester District Council (CDC) regarding the removal of all of the trees.

It was noted that there are rats on the islands which would be likely to steal the laid eggs, and once the area was clearer they would go elsewhere to gain cover.

It was agreed that the next step would be to identify all trees that might need to be felled/removed and to make the associated application to CDC.

The clerk will write to the volunteers and thank them for their time and enthusiasm.

It was agreed that a recommendation should be put to the March Parish Council meeting to request that some tools and equipment might be purchased to aid the Working Party work. The items would include: loppers, long handled forks, safety fencing, rakes, bow saws.

*The following recommendation was agreed:*

*that the Committee agree to recommend that the Council agree to the purchase of various hand tools and equipment to aid the Working Parties up to the value of £500.*

#### **4.2. Planting of trees to replace Horse Chestnuts**

AS confirmed that two beech trees had been planted in the area of the felled horse chestnut trees. They will be in need of a regular supply of water which can be gathered from the ponds.

#### **4.3. Safety equipment for ponds**

The Council had agreed, following the recommendation by POSAC, to purchase a lifebelt and rope unit which can be located between the two ponds. It is hoped that this will deter vandals who have, in the past, constantly thrown the life belt into the pond.

The clerk will order the unit and then consideration can be given to the exact location and fixing.

#### **4.4. Play equipment repair and replacement in South Gardens**

The new slide is on order and will take between 6-8 weeks to arrive. The work to repair and refurbish the items of play equipment highlighted in the 2018 Inspection, and the installation of the slide are due to take place after Easter.

#### **4.5. South Gardens signage**

A local resident had confirmed they were happy to do the edging on a new wooden sign for South Gardens, but they would not be able to do any lettering. It was agreed that this issue was not of high importance and would be discussed at a later meeting.

#### **4.6. Purchase of Furze Meadow**

There was no further progress since the last meeting. CDC and Hyde Housing have now carried out the Asset Review and are due to meet shortly. It is hoped that this project will be able to move forward in the near future.

#### **4.7. Fences and gates for the Warren**

There is a need to clearly mark the western side of the boundary in The Warren and to ensure that the access from 40 acre lane and from the opening opposite the road junction to the eastern side of the Wace Plantation is secure. The boundary on the western side is currently marked by tree protectors, these need to be replaced with concrete posts. The entrances to the South and East of the Warren will require posts and bars with lockable collars.

It was agreed that AS would meet with SD and AP to draw up a specification for the necessary work which would enable quotes to be requested, and a recommendation passed to the Council for agreement.

## **5. Ponds in South Gardens**

JC had provided the POSAC members with a proposed action plan to de-silt the northern pond, and this was discussed. The concern was that it was a similar approach to a plan suggested to Johnny Glover a year ago. Johnny Glover said it would entail a considerable amount of piling and also be unlikely to get permission from Natural England.

The overriding problem is that the neighbouring landowner is not interested in accepting any of the spoil onto their land, and the transportation cost and licences required to enable the spoil to be moved elsewhere is hugely expensive.

It was agreed that current efforts should be focussed on further clearing up of the area and the islands, and to embark on a programme of weed removal.

The removal of the silt may need to be reconsidered in the future, but in the meanwhile, further approaches will be made to

the Nugents to see if they might reconsider taking the silt

It was suggested that the clerk should contact Sparshott college and Brinsbury college and ask if they have any groups that might be interested in working on the ponds.

## **6. Tree Wardens**

It was noted that the role of the Tree Wardens needs to be established and a regular pattern of monitoring and reporting is needed, especially after periods of high winds.

The chairman confirmed that the next POSAC meeting would discuss the formation of a sub-committee to deal with the tree management issues, and this would be part of its remit.

## **7. Long-term maintenance and tree felling**

The Tree Working Group, established by the Parish Council, has been delegated the brief to manage and carry out tree works. This group will continue this work until the new Parish Council is formed following the May elections.

The tree work will then become a responsibility of the POSAC and, as noted in the previous item, the chairman confirmed that the formation of a sub-committee to deal with tree management issues would be considered at the next POSAC meeting.

## **8. Items for next meeting**

- Tree sub-committee group
- Furze Meadow

## **9. Date of next meeting**

Tuesday 28 May 2019 at 7.30pm

The meeting closed at 8.50pm