

HARTING PARISH COUNCIL

Meeting of the Play and Open Spaces Advisory Committee (POSAC) 16th November 2017

MINUTES

Minutes of the POSAC Meeting held in the **Old Doctors Room, Harting Community Hall, Pease Croft, South Harting** on **Monday 16th November 2017 at 7.30pm.**

Present: Mr Stuttaford (Chairman) (HS), Mrs Bramley (SB), Mrs Gammon (DG), Mrs Dawson (SD), Mr Bonner (TB), Mr Shaxson (AS), Mr Gladwyn (BG) and Mr Claydon (JC).

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

There was no members of the public in attendance

1. Apologies for absence: None.

2. Declarations of interest: None.

3. Minutes from Meeting held on 26th September 2016

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

4. Pond clearance update

Stedham fishing club showed some initial interest in the ponds, but decided the cost and amount of work involved was too great.

Petersfield Angling Club have shown some interest. HS/AS had received an initial quote from Johnny Glover for the pond clearance which was in the region of £10k per pond, on the basis that the spoil would be spread on neighbouring land.

However, this has been a problem as the neighbouring landowners have said they cannot take any of the spoil.

The committee discussed the possibility of asking other local farmers if they would be prepared to take any of the spoil, and it was agreed that HS/AS would approach Will Davey, James Langmead and David Bates.

If this is still not an option then Johnny Glover will be asked to cost for the removal and disposal of the spoil.

TB suggested that perhaps it would be an option to clear just one of the ponds and to put the spoil from that into the other one. The committee felt this was a good idea, and cited the possibility that the middle pond could be dredged with the spoil being placed between the two islands on the most northerly pond to create a bigger island. Timber from the trees that need felling/remedial work could be used as a base for this. The area would need temporary fencing until the spoil had settled. HS/AS to raise with Johnny Glover.

Once the middle pond had been cleared up, fishing clubs may be interested in coming in and committing to the upkeep.

There was some discussion around the logistics of such work, JC suggested that it may be necessary to electrify the fish and move them to another pond whilst the work is underway.

The trees around the ponds are another issue, as there is a lot of dead wood and work needed. AS confirmed that general conservation consent is required for the tree works in that area.

HS to contact the local farmers regarding possible land for the spoil from the ponds. Dependent on the response, HS/AS to ask Johnny Glover for a price to transport and dispose of the spoil and to look at the partial infill of pond 3 as an option.

5. Update on Tree Management

TW confirmed that the tree survey had been completed and that tree works had been identified. Conservation area consent had been applied for the tree work required in South Gardens as a result of the survey.

The three chestnut trees in South Gardens have all been classed as dangerous, one has already been felled, and the other two are due to be felled at the end of November.

Two of the trees highlighted as dangerous in the survey transpired to be on the land of Harry Fitzalan-Howard. They are due to be felled soon, and will be felled onto the Council land over the footpaths. They are going to cut the pathways through, and hope to move the wood when the weather and ground conditions allow.

AS outlined the issues with the boundary on the eastern side of The Warren, he has marked the boundary as well as he can using the broken picket fencing, put up many years ago, as a guide. The Nugents, who own the neighbouring land, have been contacted in writing, to agree the boundary line, but no formal reply has been received from them. SB is to look at the letter, and then decide if a further one should be sent to clarify the situation and cover the Council.

Dependent on the situation with the Nugents it was suggested that Humphrey Sladden might be asked to provide a Statutory Declaration stating he can remember that this was the position of the boundary.

DG requested details of the new trees that needed to be planted as part of the planning permission agreement for the felling of the chestnut trees.

TW to copy letters to SB, and planning permission to DG.

6. Tree Wardens training and future role

TW confirmed that the tree warden training is taking place on 24th November. The course is classroom and practical based. More information will be available after the course to enable the role of the tree wardens to be developed. Both wardens are both still keen to become involved.

7. Risk Assessment – Review of the recent play area safety inspection & Future play equipment provision

DG reported that the inspection was carried out annually and wondered if this was sufficient, whether there should be a 6-monthly inspection.

AS noted that TB carries out a weekly check for any visual problems on a weekly basis, and feeds back if there are any problems. The annual inspection is therefore sufficient.

HS noted that all the items highlighted in red were all manufactured by the same company, Kompan Ltd. He then suggested that perhaps it was time to rationalise the equipment and remove obsolete items such as the outdoor gym equipment, keeping a smaller amount of better equipment to enable easier maintenance. This was thought to be a good idea, but DG was concerned that children may be disappointed to turn up and discover their favourite piece of equipment had been removed. It was suggested that perhaps a group visit to the play area to discuss the risk assessment report and look at the equipment would be a good idea. Also, Kompan Ltd would be contacted and asked to visit the site to look at the equipment that seems to have fallen foul of the regulations changes. It was noted that many of the items have appeared as minor issues on the report for some years which signifies that they may have almost been out dated before they were installed.

DG to contact Kompan and TW/HS to organise an on -site meeting

8. Risk assessment for South Gardens

Unfortunately the risk assessment hadn't been circulated prior to the meeting.

TW to circulate risk assessment for comments

9. Furze Meadow

TW confirmed that the situation with Hyde Housing was progressing slowly, and the contact Jo Casey was due to give an idea of the restrictive covenants that were likely to be imposed if a sale of land was to go ahead. Once this information is known, the details of legal costs can be considered.

10. Thefts in South Gardens

There have been problems with the life rings being thrown in the ponds, and then the replacement throw rope was stolen. Currently all the lifesaving equipment has been removed.

More recently the stepping stones have been stolen from the play area and the metal bar from the top of The Warren has been found down by the gate of South Gardens. The concrete post from further up the path has also been moved.

TW to make enquiries about vandal proof lifesaving equipment.

11. Signage in South Gardens

HS had received a suggestion that the signage for South Gardens should be simple and rather than have a list of "don'ts" should just welcome people and ask them to respect the area. A reference could be made to the Parish Council website for further information.

SB suggested that the bottom of the sign could have some simple symbols/pictures to identify what not to do. The committee thought this was a good idea.

HS to draw up a suggested sign.

12. SSSI Statement for The Warren

AS outlined the reasons for having a Management Statement on an area of SSSI. A Statement would detail the reasons for the SSSI, what is in the area and what can and

can't be done in that area. TW had contacted Natural England asking for details about a possible Statement, but no reply has yet been received. It was felt that this would be a good idea to progress.

TW to contact Natural England again

13. Any Other Business

- i) HS asked what the situation was regarding the Scout Path. TW said that no further requests had been made, but it was likely that the subject would be raised as the winter weather set in.

It was noted that the path has been used by the arborists to reach the trees, and so there may be a need to consider the state of the path once this has been completed.

- ii) DG asked for confirmation that the BMX track on the left hand side of The Warren could still be used. This was confirmed.

14. Date of next meeting

The next meeting will be held in January 2018