

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 **Monday 19th February 2018**

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

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

There was no members of the public in attendance

1. Apologies for absence: Mrs Bramley and Mr Palmer

2. Declarations of interest: None.

3. Minutes from Meeting held on 16th November 2017

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

4. Pond clearance update

AS reported that the situation had not progressed since the last meeting as the neighbouring farmer is not willing to have the spoil placed on their land. If the spoil needed to be moved further afield, then licences would be required and this would increase the costs. The contractor, Johnny Glover, who had been approached for advice and costs on the pond clearance had suggested a way of improving the second pond without having to discard the spoil. This method would involve moving some of the spoil behind 2 metre high barriers placed at the edge of the pond. However, this would substantially reduce the size of the pond.

The members felt that it would be a good idea to ask Johnny Glover to provide a cost of clearing the ponds, including the removal of the spoil away from the site.

AS suggested that rather than trying to remove the spoil, that an alternative might be to organise voluntary groups to remove and clear some of the reeds and cut back the vegetation. This would make an immediate improvement to the ponds, and would be of minimal cost. It would be anticipated that the Council would need to purchase some waders and a punt for movement of the material. The members felt that once further information and prices had been received from Johnny Glover, this may be a way to progress.

HS to contact Johnny Glover

TW to contact Came & Co regarding the insurance cover for volunteers working in the ponds.

5. Pond Safety

The clerk gave an update and confirmed that there was no further progress with the pond safety appliances. It was agreed that the life belt should be replaced by the ponds to see if the previous problem persists.

The Diggers School have been sent an email confirming that there are currently no life belts in place.

The members felt that it would be beneficial to place a wooden sign in each of the ponds stating that users go near the water at their own risk.

TW to contact Tim Riches and ask to replace life belt.

TW to investigate signs for the pond

6. Tree Update

TW confirmed that following the first tree survey carried out in August 2017, the contractors have been appointed to carry out the necessary work, and that this would be starting during the following week.

The second "leaf off" survey had also taken place during the previous week and had highlighted some other issues, in particular with some ash trees in the Wace Plantation.

The boundary on the western side of the Warren was discussed and members agreed that contractors should be approached to give quotes to place concrete posts along the boundary. Costs would then be put to the full council for consideration.

AS to assess how many posts are required

TW to contact contractors

7. Woodland Management

The members agreed that this should be discussed at the next meeting.

8. Role of the Tree Wardens

TW reported that the wardens had attended a course and were keen to get started. They are initially completing risk assessments to cover any health and safety issues arising from their work. At this time it has been suggested that they carry out a monthly walk through the area of South Gardens and the Warren, and monitor the conditions of the trees, in particular those noted on the survey. They will notify the clerk of any problems and issues that arise. They will also walk through following any periods of high winds.

The role of the wardens will be discussed at the next meeting.

9. South Gardens Play Area

TB reported that Ray Parker from Kompan had visited South Gardens and had felt that with the exception of the slide, the area was simply in need of maintenance to areas of the flooring and for the whole area to be jet washed.

Kompan felt that the inspection report was overly alarming and was happy with the condition of the equipment. The members that he should supply this comment in writing.

It was also noted that as Diggers School was a high user of the area, that they should be approached to ask to contribute to the area.

TW to contact Diggers

10. Furze Meadow Play Area

AS reported that following the Council's decision to obtain legal advice, a reply had been received from the SALC solicitor, which outlines that leasing the area is not an option, as anything less than 25 years would not attract grants or funding from outside bodies. The Working Group were due to meet and draw up a reply to Hyde regarding the proposed covenants and legal costs. An update report will be put to the Council in March 2018. HS offered to help to draw up the reply to Hyde.

11. Signage in South Gardens

It was agreed that the sign needs to be brief and concise, and would be discussed further at the next meeting.

12. SSSI Statement for The Warren

Natural England had responded to the request for a management statement by suggesting that the Council contact the Forestry Commission for advice. Natural England have been informed of any emergency tree works that are necessary in the area.

13. Any Other Business

- i. It was noted that there had not been any further thefts in South Gardens
- ii. It was suggested that once any work to the pond had been agreed, that Mr Fitzalan Howard is informed, and may decide to carry out similar work on his pond.
- iii. BG reported that one of the South Gardens cottages appeared to be for sale, and some while ago the Council had a boundary issue with the resident. It was noted that it might be a good time to contact the agent about the unresolved boundary dispute.

14. Date of next meeting

To be agreed