

HARTING PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of **Play and Open Spaces Advisory Committee (POSAC)** held on **Monday 26 October 2020** at **7.30 pm**.

The meeting was held via Zoom video link in accordance with the Coronavirus Act 2020

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

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

1. Apologies for absence: Mr Claydon (JC).

2. Declarations of interest: None.

3. Minutes from Meeting held on 11 February 2020

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

4. Matters arising:

4.1. Safety equipment for ponds

This lifebelt and cabinet have now been installed.

4.2. Purchase of Furze Meadow

Hyde Housing have now installed new play equipment at Furze Meadow and the local community is really pleased with the outcome. There is still an outstanding issue with some broken fencing, the clerk is following this up.

4.3. Gates at the Warren

This was to be covered later in the agenda.

5. Planting days and help required re: Covid-19 restrictions

It was noted that the planting days were on course, likely to be 5 and 6 December 2020. However, the need to comply with the "Best practice for tree planting events with social distancing", published as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic, has highlighted the need for a co-ordinator to help organise this side of the planting events.

Mrs Bull had been to an organised event where such measures had been in place and it was agreed that she would work alongside the Woodland and Tree sub-committee to overcome some of the logistics surrounding the Covid-19 restrictions.

6. Budget requirements 2021/22

There was some discussion about funding requirements for the ongoing management and maintenance of the Warren following the planned planting. It was noted that the commitment in the next 2-5 years would be substantial and it may not be possible to rely on volunteers to provide the required levels of support. There was a discussion about employing someone to carry out the 'hands on' maintenance.

The majority considered that this was not an issue for the financial year 2021/22, however there is likely to be a need in the next financial year. It was noted that there was a contingency fund available if an unexpected needs arose.

It was noted that a sum for the gates to South Gardens was already included in the current budget for the year 2020/21.

The members agreed there were no budget requests above the normal requirements.

7. Gates to secure South Gardens and the Warren

There had been some discussion over the last 18 months, since the incursion of travellers, about installing barrier style gates at the entrance of South Gardens and at the southern end of the Warren.

It was agreed that, once the deer fencing was installed, the southern entrance of the Warren did not need a barrier at this stage.

A barrier style gate will be erected inside the current wooden gates at the entrance to South Gardens, the colour should be either green or grey.

The following proposals were agreed:

- i. The entrance to South Gardens would be protected
- ii. The gate should be a barrier style in either green or grey
- iii. AS will lead the project and request 3 quotes from contractors
- iv. The costs and information will be presented to the next POSAC meeting

8. South Gardens ponds- current state and issues

The members discussed the main issue with the ponds, the need to remove the silt, and recognised there was no evident solution to this problem at the current time.

JC continues to work on the ponds and tidy them up, recently he had created a bund in the corner of the middle pond. Unfortunately, he was unable to attend the meeting as he does not have access to Zoom. The members noted their appreciation for his continued work.

It was agreed that the ponds are a great asset to the community and are under used. After some discussion it was agreed that the proposals from the meeting earlier in the year should be progressed and further advice should be sought from a suitable authority. This advice would hopefully give guidance with the issues of silt removal as well advising on creation of habitats.

The members agreed that AS should contact the SDNPA to see if they can provide advice or help to facilitate any works that may need to be done.

A complaint was noted in relation to the plastic heron that had been placed in the most northerly pond, in particular as it appeared to be attracting another heron. The advice and guidance from SDNPA will hopefully help to address these issues.

The following proposals were agreed:

- i. An update was received on the pond
- ii. There were no immediate issues to consider
- iii. That a long term view of the ponds and their usage should be considered
- iv. AS to contact SDNPA to see if they are able to provide any advice or help

9. Items for future meetings

- i. South Gardens ponds
- ii. The Warren and planting
- iii. How the WMPF facility might be better utilized – SBr to review the terms of the lease

10. Dates of next meetings

The next meeting will be held on 30 November 2020 at 6pm via Zoom

The meeting closed at 7.50pm