

## HARTING PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of **Play and Open Spaces Advisory Committee (POSAC)** held on **Monday 7 December 2020** at **6.00 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 26 October 2020**

Following an alteration of the start time to 6.30pm and a spelling correction to agenda item 6 the minutes were approved and signed by the Chairman as a true record.

**4. Matters arising:**

The fencing around the play area at Furze Meadow is still in need of repair, the clerk is contacting Hyde each month to check the progress.

**5. Update on planting days**

The Tree Council and Network Rail planting day held on 3 December 2020 had gone ahead, albeit at a vastly reduced scale due to the Covid-19 restrictions and the exceptionally bad weather on the day.

Andrew Haines, the CEO from Network Rail had attended and was on site for about 30 minutes. Along with Sara Lom (CEO Tree Council) and the Council chair he planted two yew trees. A Daily Mail photographer was in attendance, a small article appeared in that newspaper the following day, but sadly no photographs were included.

The planning for the community planting days continues and it is hoped they will take place on Thursday 28 January and Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> January, with backup dates in case of Covid restrictions or bad weather for Friday 19<sup>th</sup> and Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> February. The days will be attended by SDNPA (South Downs National Park Authority) rangers and Petra Billings.

The assumption is that the 'rule of six' will apply and arrangements are being made in accordance with these restrictions.

The areas to be planted by the community and the contractors is to be defined and Petra Billings will be consulted with this in mind.

The Tree Council are being updated and it is hoped they will be involved in the planting days.

## **6. Gates to secure South Gardens and the Warren**

Obtaining quotes for the barrier gates has proved quite difficult . A local builder suggested a company that may be able to help, but they have not responded to any enquiries at this stage. It was noted that the issue is with the fitting of the gates rather than the supply.

This will continue to be investigated and a further report will be given to the next POSAC meeting.

## **8. South Gardens ponds**

Following discussions at the previous POSAC meeting the Chair had made contact with Chloe Goddard, a SDNPA ranger, who visited South Gardens. She had suggested the Council should consider commissioning a survey of the ponds to help formulate a future management plan.

The Chair made some initial enquiries with ecologists, one of whom visited the site, to see if this approach might be feasible.

The initial feedback indicated this would be a good way forward and that the best time for a survey would be in the late Spring / Summer.

The members noted that it was very important that any balance between the leisure and ecological uses of the ponds were balanced. It would also agreed to be important that the community were involved in the process.

It was agreed the information had been very useful and there would be further discussions at the next POSAC meeting with a view to agreeing a proposal for the full Council meeting at a later date.

The chair noted that the carp were not evident in the middle pond at the moment, Mr Claydon may be able to confirm if he has seen them recently.

The members agreed that as Mr Claydon was not able to attend Zoom meetings, and was so active in the upkeep of the ponds, it was important to keep him updated with all the recent discussions.

## **9. Signage for South Gardens**

The signage at South Gardens had been a topic for discussion for some time with no conclusion ever being reached.

It was agreed that the signage is becoming more important as there seems to be an increase of cycling in the area of South Gardens and the Warren.

The members agreed it was important the signage should be welcoming rather than just a list of things that cannot be done. However, it was important that certain items were included such as:

No cycling

No swimming

No horses

Keep dogs under control

Use facilities at own risk

Ownership details in case of needing to report a problem

Provided for community to enjoy

It was not evident if a disclaimer notice was necessary, Mrs Bramley would investigate the legal situation.

It was agreed that potential wording and designs will be considered at the next POSAC meeting.

**10. Items for future meetings**

- i. South Gardens ponds
- ii. Planting days
- iii. Gates
- iv. South Garden signage
- v. Play area inspection

**11. Dates of next meeting**

The next meeting will be held on 11 January 2020 at 6pm via Zoom

The meeting closed at 7.05pm