

HARTING PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of **Play and Open Spaces Advisory Committee (POSAC)** held on **Monday 11 January 2021** at **6.00 pm**.

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

Present: Mr Shaxson (Chair) (AS), 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) and Mr Bonner (TB).

2. Declarations of interest: None.

3. Minutes from Meeting held on 7 December 2020

The minutes were approved and will be signed by the Chairman as a true record when the coronavirus restrictions allow.

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.

The carp in the pond appeared to have disappeared but a few have been seen in the last week so it is thought they may have been sheltering from the colder weather.

5. Update on planting days

The planting days planned for January 2021 have been postponed until Autumn 2021.

This is due to the current lockdown restrictions resulting from the Covid-19 virus and the uncertainty when these restrictions will end. The current restrictions have a "Stay at Home" warning and no group activities are allowed.

The Tree Council has also issued a statement to confirm that volunteer planting schemes should be delayed until they are safe.

The dates for the community planting will be arranged later in the year, possibly to combine with National Tree Week, and further plans will be drawn up nearer the time.

It is hoped the planting events at this time will not be subject to any restrictions which will enable more sociable and community based events.

MJO Forestry will be commencing the professional planting in the Warren during the next few weeks.

A specification has been produced, under the guidance of Petra Billings, showing the areas to be planted, inside and outside the deer fencing, and confirming the number of each species. A total of 2900 saplings will be planted by the contractors.

Two local residents had offered some walnut trees and an ash tree for planting in the Warren. It was noted that Petra Billings had previously said that walnut trees were not appropriate for inclusion in the planting scheme as they are not native species.

However, she did say that a couple of trees might be planted in the area of South Gardens.

6. Tree Survey update

The clerk confirmed that the tree survey was due to take place on 19 January 2021.

7. Gates to secure South Gardens and the Warren

AS confirmed it was difficult, particularly in the current Covid-19 circumstances to find contractors that are willing to fit the gates. A local firm had been contacted but had not responded.

It was agreed that some local contacts would be approached to see if they had any further suggestions for contractors that might be able to undertake this work.

8. South Gardens ponds

The members agreed that the initial information gathered about potential surveys for the ponds was useful and that a proposal would be put to the Council to ask for permission to obtain quotes.

The following recommendation was agreed:

That the committee agrees to recommend the Council agrees to obtain estimates for the survey of the council owned ponds in South Gardens in the Spring/summer of 2021

9. Play Area Inspection

The inspection for the play area is due. The clerk is contacting companies that may be able to offer a package to cover the annual inspections for a period of 3 years, as this seems to be the current arrangement in most areas. This arrangement would mean the inspection date is pre booked each year and is a more reasonable price as other local play areas under the scheme are inspected at the same time.

More information will be provide once received.

The clerk will contact Rogate Parish Council to ask what contractor they use.

10. Signage for South Gardens

SBr presented some information about the laws behind the potential signage and also some pictures of signage that was in local leisure areas.

After some discussion it was agreed that the signage was required to:

- welcome visitors
- to show the land was owned by the Parish Council
- ask people to keep the area clean and safe
- provide a list of do and don'ts which could be a combination of words and symbols covering areas such as:
 - No golf
 - No cycling
 - Keep dogs under control
 - No littering
 - No fires or BBQ's
 - No swimming

SBr and SB agreed to work together to come up with some potential ideas and designs to present to the next meeting.

It was agreed that 'no bike' signs were needed at the both ends of the Warren.

It was also agreed that a notice to say Council are not liable for any loss or damage of property should be placed in the car park.

11. Items for future meetings

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

12. Dates of next meeting

The next meeting will be held on 1 March 2021 at 6pm via Zoom

The meeting closed at 6.55pm