

**TIPTREE PARISH COUNCIL**  
**MINUTES OF AMENITIES COMMITTEE MEETING**

A meeting of the Amenities Committee took place on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> April 2019 at 7.00pm in The Meeting Room, Community Centre, Caxton Close

Present Cllrs: Mrs D Webb (Chairman)                      R Mannion (Vice Chairman)  
                  Mrs D Coe   J Greenwood  
                  Mrs B Wood

Also in attendance – Two members of the public, Cllr J Elliott (Colchester Borough Council), the Head Groundsman and the Clerk of the Council.

778/18 Apologies for Absence – There were apologies for absence from Cllr D Harrington.

779/18 Declarations of Interest – There were no declarations of interest.

780/18 Tiptree Heath – Report of Community Warden

Mrs J Pinch, the Tiptree Heath Community Warden gave a report to the committee. Last winter's conservation work has built on previous years, so that Tiptree Heath is looking like real heath again. Two more sections of fencing are being replaced. The Exmoor ponies should return to the heath on 24<sup>th</sup> April 2019 and there is a "Meet the Ponies" event on 19<sup>th</sup> May 2019. Bookings can be made through the Essex Wildlife Trust. There is a full summer programme of wildlife walks and Forest school sessions during each school holiday. Mrs Pinch was thanked for her report.

781/18 Public Questions

There were no questions from the members of the public present.

782/18 Minutes of Meeting – 18<sup>th</sup> February 2019

The minutes had previously been approved and were signed as a correct record by Cllr Mrs D Webb.

783/18 Grove Road Playing Field

1. The Clerk reported that she still had to contact Oakpark Security and the Head Groundsman said that there had been no complaints about the gates being unlocked. It is hoped that the job will be advertised shortly.
2. Site Meeting Report – 8<sup>th</sup> April 2019
  - a. Cllr R Mannion told the meeting that he had contacted the contractor and architect and asked for a meeting to discuss the workshop.
  - b. The Clerk was asked to contact Playquip about the cone climber, as it needed further repairs. There was some discussion about the original design of the piece.
  - c. The replacement of the junior play equipment is a priority and the funds need to be looked at.
  - d. The open area in front of the skatepark and the basketball court have a number of trip hazards. This is a priority to get a quote for work to be carried out.
  - e. It was agreed that the Head Groundsman should level and re-seed the goal mouth areas and that an artificial surface should be costed.
  - f. It was proposed by Cllr R Mannion and seconded by Mrs D Coe that a tree survey should be carried out on the trees to the side of the park, bordering the properties in Grove Road.

3. Transfer of Land – Grove Road Extension. Cllr Mrs B Wood said that she would speak to Colchester Borough Council. Cllr R Mannion said that this issue had been raised at the meeting earlier in the year with Cllr Mark Corey and Ian Vipond.

784/18 Grove Lake

Site Meeting Report – 8<sup>th</sup> April 2019

1. It was proposed by Cllr R Mannion and seconded by Cllr Mrs B Wood that the walkway should be surveyed for structural and Health & Safety issues. This was agreed unanimously.
2. The areas that are lifting should have yellow warning paint on them and the Head Groundsman said that this will be done next week.
3. The old concrete seat and the Scouts wooden seat should both be removed because they are beyond repair. The Head Groundsman said that these will be removed next week and the Clerk was asked to contact the Scouts.
4. The Grounds Staff will check the cable to the right-hand pump in the pond next week.
5. There are a number of litter bins that need replacing at Grove Lake, Grove Road, the skatepark and Windmill Green. These will be costed and the matter brought back to the committee.

785/18 Memorial Garden

1. URC – update on encroachment issue and electricity connection – The Clerk has still to contact Stewarts about a certificate and this will be progressed.
2. Site Meeting Report – 8<sup>th</sup> April 2019
  - a. A fence has been damaged and needs repair. However, it is not known whether this fence belongs to the Parish Council. This needs to be investigated and brought back to the committee.
  - b. A decision needs to be made as to whether a hedge or specimen trees should be used for screening at the far end of the Garden.
  - c. Trees need to be planted near the scattering areas and the Head Groundsman will obtain some prices.
  - d. It was agreed that one raised bed will be planted as a trial.

786/18 Caxton Close Play Area

1. The Clerk reported that she still had to contact Oakpark Security and the Head Groundsman said that there had been no complaints about the gates being unlocked. It is hoped that the job will be advertised shortly.
2. The Clerk told the meeting that notices will be put up advertising the fact that a gate is to be installed across the entrance to the walkway from St Luke's Chase, between the Community Centre and the Caxton Close play area. The notice will give 6-8 weeks' notice and at the same time, the gates will be ordered.

787/18 Park Lane Nature Reserve

1. Park Lane Pond - Cllr Mrs D Webb said that the Council will need to look for a new contractor.
2. Tree Work – The Head Groundsman confirmed that the tree work on the re-growth has now been carried out. There are some brambles that need to be removed.
3. The Clerk reported that she will be meeting soon with the residents who own the house at the top of the PROW, to discuss the boundary with them.

788/18 Warrior's Rest

Cllr R Mannion reported that this matter needs to be put in abeyance until further information has been received. This was agreed.

789/18 Grove Road Workshop  
This item had been dealt with under 783/18.

790/18 Financial Comparison  
The Clerk circulated paperwork relating to the Financial Comparison. This was discussed and noted.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 8.32pm

Signed.....Date.....