

TIPTREE PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF AMENITIES COMMITTEE MEETING

A meeting of the Amenities Committee took place on Monday 16th September 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
 Cllr Mrs B Wood

Also in attendance – One member of the public, the Head Groundsman and the Clerk of the Council

231/19 Apologies for Absence – There were no apologies for absence as all members of the committee were present.

232/19 Declarations of Interest – There were no declarations of interest.

233/19 Tiptree Heath – Report of Community Warden

The Clerk apologised that she had omitted to send the agenda to Mrs J Pinch, the Tiptree Heath Community Warden and therefore she would have been unaware of the meeting. The Chairman had the report that had been sent for the July meeting, which was read out.

- Recent monitoring of heathers and other heath flowers has shown a decrease in the spread of new heather, possibly due to last Summer's extreme heat before seeding. However, there is still a good variety of flora with existing heathers thriving.
- A campaign of litter posters created by some Tiptree Heath pupils has gone down very well with heath users, some even commenting that there is less dog mess around.
- After an initial session of bracken bruising where the machine was damaged, it is hoped to complete a more extensive attack on the bracken this year once it is repaired. This will also include the area across the road.

The Clerk reported that she had found out that the "Tiptree Books" is a county-wide problem and is not specific to Tiptree.

There had been an incident on the Heath and as a result several ponies were removed. Essex Wildlife Trust is now considering a plan for the ponies.

234/19 Public Questions

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

235/19 Minutes of Meeting – 15th July 2019

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

236/19 Grove Road Playing Field

1. Workshop update – The workshop rebuilding is now due to start on 14th October 2019. A container will be hired from WillBox and will be for 24 weeks. The container will be placed on the car park, within the Heras fencing and the workshop will be cleared. Wood from the workshop will be stored at the Community Centre.
2. Tarmac Surface quote update – It was proposed by Cllr J Greenwood and

seconded by Cllr R Mannion that that CJS Contracts should be asked to undertake the works, subject to the quoted prices and the reserves being checked. This is done on Health & Safety grounds and was agreed unanimously.

3. Cone Climber update – It was noted again that the equipment has not been identified as dangerous on the recent Play Equipment Inspection but that the matter still needs to be reported to Playquip.
4. Play Equipment Independent Inspection – It was proposed by Cllr R Mannion and seconded by Cllr Mrs D Coe that The Play Inspection Company should be asked to undertake the annual inspections. This was agreed unanimously.

237/19 Grove Lake

1. Scouts Seat Replacement - Cllr Mrs D Webb has spoken to the Scouts about a possible replacement. She had explained that the seat had to be removed because it was badly damaged and beyond economical repair and said that they may wish to contribute to a replacement. The Scouts will be having a meeting shortly and will discuss any contribution at that time.
2. Path Survey – There have been no reports of any accidents. The Deputy Clerk had said that she might know where to get some advice about a structural survey but was currently away on annual leave. This will be followed up at the next meeting.

238/19 Memorial Garden

1. Electricity Connection update – The Clerk has still to contact UK Power Networks.
2. Planting/landscaping update – All the plants have now been planted and the Head Groundsman said that the edges need to have seed and soil put on them. The grass needs to have Feed & Seed put on it and road chippings are to be put in near the entrance.
3. Site Meeting date – This will take place on Tuesday 17th September 2019 at 2.30pm
4. Date for meeting to discuss record keeping – The gridding and agreement of sizes needs to be addressed and a meeting will be fixed when the Deputy Clerk returns from annual leave.

239/19 Tree Survey

A tree survey had been undertaken in July 2019. Additional information had been given by the arboriculturalist about possible management plans for the trees on Windmill Green and at the Grove Road Recreation Ground.

There were no matters of urgency noted and it was agreed to contact the tree surgeons for quotes for the work.

240/19 Caxton Close Play Area

It was noted that the gate on the walkway between Caxton Close and the Community Centre has now been installed. No problems have been encountered since the installation.

241/19 Park Lane Nature Reserve

Cllr Mrs D Webb had drawn up a report on a meeting held at the site on 3rd July 2019.

The Grounds Staff will undertake the work on the ponds as soon as possible and the matter of the replacement of the edging should be considered.

Cllr Mrs D Webb had e.mailed Karl Roots about fixing a date for the cut and collect and was waiting to hear from him.

The eco-plugs have ben bought and are to be put in.

It was reported that the hedge on the Wilkins side of PROW 25 is to be cut sometime after 1st November 2019.

It was agreed to try and find the house number of the property that has an unauthorised access onto the site.

Cllr Mrs D Webb will contact Mr Dunn about the possibility of thinning some of the trees.

Cllr Mrs D Webb will contact TCV.

The Head Groundsman said that he could take out part of the hedge.

It was agreed that the new picnic bench should be green.

242/19 Financial Comparison

A financial report from the RBS Financial software was circulated and agreed.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 8.14pm

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