

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

A meeting of the Amenities Committee took place on Monday 17<sup>th</sup> June 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    Mrs B Wood

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

071/19 Apologies for Absence – There were apologies for absence from Cllr J Greenwood.

072/19 Declarations of Interest – There were no declarations of interest.

073/19 Tiptree Heath – Report of Community Warden  
Mrs J Pinch, the Tiptree Heath Community Warden had given her apologies for her absence from the meeting but had sent a report.

- ❖ ‘Tiptree Rocks’ is bringing out many families with children to the heath and it is good to see so many. However, I do have concerns that some parents are ignoring the notices which say that people should not feed or pet the ponies. They are wild animals and could jump at any time.
- ❖ The new fencing has been successfully installed and blends in well with the surroundings.
- ❖ The Orienteering course has been re-designed so that free-standing posts are no longer used. new maps and instructions will soon be available through the Tiptree Heath website.

Cllr Mrs D Webb reported that she had attended the Annual Management Meeting earlier in the day.

074/19 Public Questions  
There were no questions from the members of the public present.

075/19 Minutes of Meeting – 15<sup>th</sup> April 2019  
The minutes had previously been approved by Council and were signed as a correct record by Cllr Mrs D Webb.

076/19 Grove Road Playing Field

1. Gates Locking – Cllr Mrs D Coe reported that her paper boy had been shutting the gate. Thanks were expressed to him and other young people, who are also opening and closing the gates.  
The Clerk reported that the job adverts will be placed this week and that they will be open for two weeks. The Clerk was asked about DBS checking and this will be investigated.
2. Site Meeting Update from 8<sup>th</sup> April 2019
  - a. The Clerk said that the tree survey will be carried out in early July.
  - b. The Clerk reported that she has just received the Play Equipment survey and the matter of the cone climber will be followed with Playquip.

- c. After discussion, it was proposed by Cllr R Mannion and seconded by Cllr Mrs D Coe that the play inspection should be carried out by an independent company. This was agreed unanimously.
  - d. The Clerk was asked to check on the training courses for play equipment inspection.
  - e. The quote for the surfaces will be followed up.
  - f. Cllr Mrs B Wood asked about replacement litter bins and it was agreed that once quotes have been obtained, these will be referred to the Policy & Finance committee, as there is no budget available.
3. Update on workshop rebuild – Cllr R Mannion update the meeting on the progress of the workshop rebuild and said that further contact from the new architect is awaited.

077/19 Grove Lake

Site Meeting Update from 8<sup>th</sup> April 2019

1. The Head Groundsman confirmed that the warning paint has been renewed on the path areas that are lifting.
2. The old concrete seat and the Scouts wooden seat have both been removed as they were beyond repair. The plaque from the Scouts seat has been saved and is being kept by the Grounds Staff.
3. The Head Grounds man reported that there are two benches under the trees that could be refurbished and re-sited. It was agreed that this will be done.
4. It was also reported that there is a problem with vermin. It was agreed that there is not much else that can be done but another sign should be installed.
5. The pump cable still needs to be inspected.
6. The bin near the bus shelter needs to be replaced. The shelter itself can be cleaned, as the Grounds Staff now have the equipment to do this.
7. A survey of the paths needs to be carried out.
8. Grant funding will be investigated.

078/19 Memorial Garden

1. Electricity Connection – The Clerk has still to contact Stewarts about a certificate and this will be progressed.
2. Planting and Scattering Area
  - a. A list of plants was circulated but no replies were received and these have now been purchased. The Head Groundsman will collect the plants. Cllr R Mannion raised the issue of watering pipes for the trees. The Clerk will check the prices of the planting to ensure that it has not gone over budget.
  - b. The Clerk is in the process of setting up an account with The Landscape Centre.

079/19 Winston Avenue Play Area

Cllr R Mannion explained that this area did have some play equipment in the past but does not have any longer. Colchester Borough Council does not cut the area properly.

The Clerk told the meeting that there would be an insurance problem if the Parish Council's staff undertake any work on the area, as it does not belong to the Parish Council and no permission has been given by the owner for work to be carried out.

It was proposed by Cllr R Mannion and seconded by Cllr Mrs B Wood that a request should be made to Colchester Borough Council to transfer the Winston Avenue Play Area to Tiptree Parish Council. This was agreed unanimously.

080/19 Caxton Close Play Area

1. The Clerk reported that the installation of the gate on the walkway at the Community Centre will be progressed as quickly as possible. Notices will be put up prior to the installation to inform members of the public.
2. It was agreed that enquiries will be made about the Tesco token scheme.

081/19 Park Lane Nature Reserve

1. Site Visit/Walk round – Cllr Mrs D Webb reported that she had been in contact with John More and that he could make a meeting in early July. It was agreed to try for 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2019 and the time will be confirmed.
2. Update on the pond – It was agreed that a new contractor must be found to undertake the work for the slope into the water. John More has agreed to talk to a contractor.
3. Byway – The Clerk told the meeting that she had had further contact with the resident at the top of the byway and it was agreed that he should get in touch with Essex County Council or Colchester Borough Council about the boundary issue.

082/19 War Memorial

A request had been received from Colin Smith of the Tiptree Scouts for the ashes of burnt poppies to be deposited in the flower beds at the War Memorial. The Clerk expressed concerns about plastic and other substances that may be present in the poppies and it was agreed that these should be removed, prior to burning. It was proposed by Cllr R Mannion and seconded by Cllr Mrs B Wood that the permission be given. This was agreed unanimously.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 8.20pm

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