

TIPTREE PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF AMENITIES COMMITTEE MEETING

A meeting of the Amenities Committee took place on Monday 21st October 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 Tiptree Heath Warden Joan Pinch, the Head Groundsman, the Clerk of the Council and the Deputy Clerk of the Council

277/19 Apologies for Absence – There were no apologies for absence as all members of the committee were present.

278/19 Declarations of Interest – There were no declarations of interest.

- 279/19 Tiptree Heath – Report of Community Warden
Mrs J Pinch, the Tiptree Heath Community Warden was present and gave her apologies for her absence over the last few meetings.
- Mrs Pinch paid tribute to Fred Boot, who died suddenly on 19th July 2019, who was the mastermind behind much of the work and maintenance on the Heath.
 - One of the projects that he had recently started was to create a “winter route”. This was because over the Summer months, the paths get wider with very muddy areas and a contractor needs to be called in to put stones on these areas. It was proposed to go ahead and create this “winter route” and that donations from Mr Boot’s funeral would go towards paying for the work.
 - There has been a very successful Summer of wildlife walks, with a beautiful showing of heather in August.
 - There had been a mention of Tiptree Heath as a good place to see wildlife in Saturday’s Times.

Cllr R Mannion asked for confirmation about whether the new fence posts were treated. Mrs Pinch explained that the posts are green and that they are expected to last for at least 25 years, which is longer than the treated posts. Mrs Pinch left the meeting, after giving her report.

280/19 Public Questions
There were no questions from the member of the public present.

281/19 Minutes of Meeting – 16th September 2019
The minutes had previously been approved by Council and were signed as a correct record by Cllr Mrs D Webb.

282/19 Grove Road Playing Field
Workshop update – The Head Groundsman told the meeting that the demolition is now due to start on 23rd October 2019. The power is now in a kiosk by the front fence. There was some discussion about the CCTV cabling and it was agreed that this would require some further thought. The Head Groundsman confirmed that the container has been secured with a dedicated padlock, which

is on hire from the container company.

Cllr J Greenwood asked about the repairs to the Tarmac areas. It was proposed by Cllr Mrs D Webb and seconded by Cllr R Mannion that the chosen contractor will be contacted and asked to start the work in 6-8 weeks. This was agreed unanimously.

283/19 Grove Lake

1. Scouts Seat Replacement - Cllr Mrs D Webb has spoken to the Scouts about contributing towards a replacement seat. The Scouts AGM will be taking place very shortly and the matter will be discussed then.
2. Path Survey – There have been no reports of any accidents. The Deputy Clerk had put together some notes about a structural survey, which were circulated. Cllr Mrs D Webb told the meeting that the pond had originally belonged to the basket works and had been sold to the Parish Council. Cllr R Mannion said that the notes about a survey didn't really take the matter forward. The Head Groundsman suggested that the current concrete and bricks between the two ponds could be removed and a bridge built between them. The Clerk said that the Council should ask someone who knows about ponds to advise on a possible scheme. It was proposed by Cllr R Mannion and seconded by Cllr Mrs D Coe that Cllr Mrs B Wood be asked to speak to Colchester Borough Council about a possible contact to get information about the ponds and that Cllr Mrs D Webb would speak to Cllr J Elliott and the Environment Agency about the same. This was agreed unanimously.
3. Pond Pump – The Head Groundsman reported that the pump still needed to be investigated.

284/19 Memorial Garden

1. Site Meeting Report – The Chairman reported that the Memorial Garden now looks very good.
2. Planting/landscaping update – It had been agreed that the seat containers needed to be planted with some brighter coloured plants and that a tree needed to be replaced in the scattering area. This has now been done and the tree that has been replaced has been planted near the entrance to the site to see if it recovers. The grass has had Feed & Seed put on it and some sand to repair the block paving is required. It had been agreed to look at extending the screening hedge by two panels length and Cllr Mrs D Webb will speak to the new project manager at TCV, who will take up post on 1st November 2019. It was agreed that a letter of thanks will be sent to Nicola Down, who is the present postholder
3. Date for meeting to discuss record keeping – Cllr R Mannion reported that further talks need to be held with the URC, following receipt of correspondence. The Clerk confirmed that the Parish Council is not allowed to spend public money on private land. It was proposed by Cllr R Mannion and seconded by Cllr Mrs D Webb that the URC should be asked for a meeting date as soon as possible.
It was agreed that the meeting to discuss the record keeping will be on Monday 4th November 2019 at 10.30am.

285/19 Caxton Close Play Area

The Deputy Clerk reported that Tesco had informed her that applications for funding through the bag token scheme had been temporarily suspended, while a back-log of applications is dealt with. The Deputy Clerk said that she had asked

to be notified when the scheme re-opens. It was noted that the current groups availing themselves of the scheme in the local branch were all national charities. It was agreed that the Deputy Clerk and Cllr Mrs D Webb will investigate this matter.

286/19 Park Lane Nature Reserve

1. Cut and Collect update – A date had been fixed for the cut and collect to happen but had to be postponed because of the wet weather. Cllr Mrs D Webb said that she will e.mail Carl Roots for a date.
2. Tree Thinning update – Cllr Mrs D Webb told the meeting that she will be meeting with Mick Dunn at 8.00am tomorrow morning, 22nd October 2019 for a walk-round. She also said that she would be meeting with Perrywoods at 9.15am to look at the planters in Church Road. The planters at the Community Centre had deteriorated and had to be thrown away but Perrywoods have agreed to replace them.
3. Pond Excavation update – The Head Groundsman reported that this would not now be done until the New Year as the area is too wet for vehicles.
4. Hedge Line Weeding (TCV) update – Cllr Mrs D Webb said that she would ask for a meeting with the new project manager.

287/19 Financial Comparison

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

288/19 Budget 2020/2021

A copy of the budget was circulated to all members of the committee and was discussed. The Clerk said that she will enter some of the base budget figures and then the Chairman, Vice Chairman and the Clerk will meet to discuss the other headings before the budget comes back to the committee for approval.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 8.11pm

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