

TIPTREE PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF AMENITIES COMMITTEE MEETING

A meeting of the Amenities Committee took place on Monday 18th February 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 – One member of the public, the Head Groundsman and the Clerk of the Council.

662/18 Apologies for Absence – There were apologies for absence from Cllr D Harrington.

663/18 Declarations of Interest – There were no declarations of interest.

664/18 Tiptree Heath – Report of Community Warden
Mrs J Pinch, the Tiptree Heath Community Warden had given her apologies to the meeting. She asked that the committee be told that the working parties have now finished, before the start of the nesting season.

665/18 Public Questions
There were no questions from the member of the public present.

666/18 Minutes of Meeting – 21st January 2019
The minutes had been approved and were signed as a correct record by Cllr Mrs D Webb. The minutes of 17th December 2018, which had also been approved, were also signed.

667/18 Grove Road Playing Field

1. A report was presented by the Clerk, which outlined the previous job description for the locking/unlocking of Grove Road and added the Caxton Close Play Area. It also gave information about an indicative price from the security company to undertake the job.
It was proposed by Cllr R Mannion and seconded by Cllr Mrs D Coe that the position should be recommended as an employed position and that the Policy & Finance committee should be asked to consider the additional monies required. It was also proposed that the security company should be asked to undertake the locking and unlocking for up to 10 calendar weeks, whilst the position is advertised. The Clerk was asked to make certain that the company could do the tasks as near as possible to the times required by the Council and a discount should be requested. This was agreed unanimously.
2. Vehicle Purchase – the Head Groundsman reported that a vehicle had recently been purchased. It is a Mitsubishi L200, diesel 4X4 with 80,000 miles on the clock. It has been serviced, has one year's MOT and has new front tyres fitted. It has also been taxed and insured.

668/18 Grove Lake
The Clerk reported that an incident had taken place at Grove Lake on 11th February 2019, to which the emergency services had been called. The police had spoken to the Clerk and confirmed that a Tiptree resident had died later at Colchester Hospital. The Clerk reported that the matter has been reported to the Council's insurers.

669/18 Memorial Garden

1. Fees – The Working Group had met on Monday 28th January 2019 and suggested

fees for the Memorial Garden to be put forward to this committee. It was proposed by Cllr R Mannion and seconded by Cllr Mrs D Coe that these fees should be accepted. In addition, double fees should be charged for non-residents but that there should be a five-year allowance for people who had moved out of the parish to go into care homes. This was agreed unanimously.

2. URC – update on encroachment issue and electricity connection – The Clerk has still to contact Stewarts about a certificate and this will be done as soon as possible.
3. Planting for the Memorial Garden – After the meeting on 28th January 2019, the Clerk said that she will produce the specification and send it out to several companies. It was agreed that a site meeting should be arranged to discuss the raised bed planting and the use of gravel on the scattering site.
4. The Clerk had produced a report about the replacement of the shed. The Head Groundsman had obtained prices for a replacement shed. He also explained that the electric connection is in the shed and that the board to which it is connected is already damp and mouldy, due to the large amount of condensation. Grass seed that has been kept in the shed has also gone mouldy. If the metal shed can be replaced for a wooden shed, the metal shed could be re-used at Grove Road to store rubbish, which currently presents a security issue. It was proposed by Cllr Mrs D Coe and seconded by Cllr Mrs D Webb that a replacement shed is purchased and that the money is taken from the Memorial Garden budget. This was agreed unanimously.

670/18 Caxton Close Play Area

1. The update on the locking and unlocking of the play area had been dealt with under item 667/18 1 and a position is to be advertised.
2. A quotation has been received for the installation of a 6' gate across the entrance to the walkway from St Luke's Chase, between the Community Centre and the Caxton Close play area. The quote is from the contractor who installed the bow-top fencing around the play area and the Community Centre and is for £1500.00. It was proposed by Cllr Mrs D Webb and seconded by Cllr J Greenwood that the installation of a gate should be recommended for safety reasons and for the prevention of vandalism and graffiti.

671/18 Park Lane Nature Reserve

1. Park Lane Pond - Cllr Mrs D Webb said that she would speak to John More about arranging a meeting with the Head Groundsman to discuss some work that can be undertaken by the grounds staff.
2. Tree Work - It was confirmed that the tree work has now been carried out. However, it had been noticed by the contractor that there was significant re-growth on trees that had been cut previously. The Head Groundsman said that he would inspect the trees and report back.

672/18 Warrior's Rest

Cllr R Mannion reported that land access to the site had been difficult but that he and Cllr M Maund had met with Colchester Borough Council on a site visit. It had been suggested that in the short term, the Parish Council should contact the Shooting Club and ask them for a key to allow access for the Council's contractor. The matter of the access from Barbrook Lane, which is overgrown and has a gate across it, will be dealt with by Colchester Borough Council, who will contact the landowners.

673/18 S106 Projects

The Clerk had circulated the list of projects, approved by the Council on 12th February 2018. It was noted that some of the projects had been identified for possible S106 funding

from the planning application at Barbrook Lane but that since this application had been refused by Colchester Borough Council, the projects were back on the priority list.

The list was considered and after much discussion, the following actions agreed:

- Facilities at Warrior's Rest – There are some monies in the budget already but the project needs to be reviewed.
- Replacement of junior play equipment at Grove Road – It may be possible to undertake this in stages, rather than as one project.
- Improvements to Sports Centre – Cllr R Mannion said that he would arrange a meeting to discuss this matter further.
- Grove Lake dredging and landscaping – It was agreed that up to date costings will be required. The Head Groundsman was asked to look at the pathways and report back. It was noted that only one of the pumps is working and that the second keeps shorting out. The cable needs to be checked. The chalk in the ponds has not been carried out because two treatments were not enough. The Grounds Staff had dug out the inlet and outlet recently. It was agreed to contact BTCV for advice.
- Adult Fitness Trail – It was noted that there had been a number of representations from neighbours about cars parking at the site. It was agreed to find the original quote. Cllr R Mannion expressed concerns about going ahead with the scheme, if there is a lot of opposition to it.
- Multi Games Surface at Grove Road – Concerns were expressed about the availability of space at the site and it was agreed that green areas are needed just as much as equipment. It was agreed that a site visit should take place to consider all aspects of the area.
- Acquisition of play area in the west of the village – It was reported that this would be the subject of future S106 agreements.

674/18 Financial Comparison

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

The Clerk advised that although it is not yet showing on the paperwork, £4200.00 has been received from Colchester Borough Council towards the removal of the pump track last year.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 8.34pm

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