

TIPTREE PARISH COUNCIL
MINUTES OF AMENITIES COMMITTEE MEETING

A meeting of the Amenities Committee took place on Monday 21st January 2019 at 7.44pm in The Meeting Room, Community Centre, Caxton Close

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

Also in attendance – The Clerk of the Council.

584/18 Apologies for Absence – There were apologies for absence from Cllr D Harrington and Cllr Mrs D Coe.

585/18 Declarations of Interest – There were no declarations of interest.

586/18 Tiptree Heath – Report of Community Warden
Mrs J Pinch, the Tiptree Heath Community Warden had given her apologies to the meeting and had sent a report, which the Clerk read out.

We have found no evidence to substantiate recent rumours that dogs had been killed by poisoning on Tiptree Heath. It appears that a situation on another heath had led to the rumours. Dog walkers are warned to be vigilant on their walks.
The Exmoor ponies are now all at Tollesbury for the rest of the winter and spring. They will return to the heath in May. Two whole sections of fencing have been replaced following a large number of posts rotting. We will continue to replace sections each year for up to 5 years.

587/18 Public Questions
There were no members of the public present.

588/18 Minutes of Meeting – 17th December 2018
The minutes had been approved and were signed as a correct record by Cllr Mrs D Webb.

589/18 With the approval of the meeting, an item was added, so that Cllr R Mannion could report on two matters relating to the Community Centre.

It was reported that at the end of last week, there had been a blockage in the sewers in St. Luke's Chase, which had impacted on the toilets in the Centre. Despite calling out a plumber and a jetting company, the blockage was eventually cleared by Anglian Water.

Also, at the end of last week, Essex Police had requested a copy of CCTV footage, relating to an assault in St Luke's Chase. The CCTV company had been called out because the password was not available and they maintained that they are the only ones who have access to take copies. Cllr R Mannion said that the contract with the CCTV company is due to run out in February 2019 and he recommended that it should be reviewed. This was agreed.

The Clerk told the meeting that she had not been made aware of either of these events and it was agreed that she should speak to members of staff about the reporting of incidents.

590/18 Grounds Vehicle
The Clerk circulated some photographs of the type of vehicle that the Head Groundsman

thinks will be suitable for use by the grounds staff. It was proposed by Cllr R Mannion and seconded by Cllr J Greenwood that a vehicle should be purchased using the following criteria: low mileage, double cab, open back or removeable cover and 4X4. The Clerk confirmed that there is a budget for this purchase and this was agreed unanimously.

Cllr R Mannion raised the matter of the purchase of small tools, which it was believed had been agreed at the same time as the purchase of the vehicle. The Clerk said that she will speak to the Head Groundsman and action this matter.

591/18 Memorial Garden

1. Fees – It was agreed that the Working Group will meet on Monday 28th January 2019 to discuss the Memorial Garden fees.
2. URC – update on encroachment issue and electricity connection – Cllr D Evans has searched through the files relating to the Memorial Garden and has found the photographs of the electricity cable trench. He said that there should also be a certificate and the Clerk will contact Stewarts about this.
3. Planting for the Memorial Garden – The Clerk said that she would like the Working Group meeting on 28th January to consider the wording of the specification for the eight trees and this was agreed.
4. The Clerk had shown the plaque to the Head Groundsman and he had agreed that it looked very good. The fixing arrangements need to be clarified and the price needs to be agreed. The Anglia Sign Casting Company will be approached.

592/18 Caxton Close Play Area

Cllr Mrs D Webb told the meeting that the picnic bench has now been installed in the Caxton Close Play Area.

The Clerk asked about the walkway at the side of the Community Centre, between the Centre and the Play Area. It was agreed that there is no PROW there and the Clerk was asked to make further enquiries about the possibility of installing a gate.

593/18 Park Lane Nature Reserve

1. Park Lane Pond - Cllr Mrs D Webb said that John More has contacted her to ask for a meeting with the Head Groundsman to discuss some work that can be undertaken by the grounds staff, prior to the work to the sides of the ponds being undertaken.
2. Forage Harvesting – It was confirmed that the forage harvesting was done before Christmas.
Tree Work - It was confirmed that the tree work had not yet been carried out and that Cllr Mrs D Webb has e.mailed the contractor to ask for a date for this work.

594/18 S106 Project - Scout Hut

It was confirmed that the Council has agreed to accept the Committee's recommendation that a feasibility study is carried out. Arrangements will now be made to find an interested company.

595/18 Financial Comparison

The Clerk circulated paperwork relating to the Financial Comparison. This was discussed and proposed by Cllr R Mannion and seconded by Cllr Mrs D Webb for acceptance. This was agreed unanimously.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 8.28pm

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