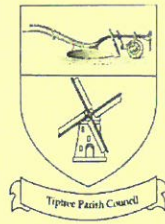


## **TIPTREE PARISH COUNCIL**



### **MINUTES OF AMENITIES COMMITTEE MEETING**

A meeting of the Amenities Committee took place on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> July 2020 at 7.00pm via Video Conference.

Present Cllrs: Cllr R Mannion (Vice Chairman) Cllr N Anderson  
Cllr D Coe Cllr J Greenwood  
Cllr B Wood

*Also in attendance* –The Clerk of the Council, the Deputy Clerk and the Head Groundsman.

001/20 **Election of Chairman** – It was proposed that Cllr Webb be elected as Chairman (in her absence, and with her assent). This was seconded. There were no other candidates. A show of hands unanimously **RESOLVED** that Cllr Webb be Chairman for the 2020/21 Civic year

002/20 **Election of Vice Chairman** – This item was brought forward in the agenda by the meeting Chairman, as the committee chairman was unable to attend the meeting. It was proposed that Cllr Mannion remain as Vice-Chairman. This was seconded. There were no other candidates, and a show of hands unanimously **RESOLVED** that Cllr Mannion be elected as Vice-Chairman for the 2020/21 civic year.

003/20 **Apologies for Absence** – There were apologies for absence from Cllr D Webb.

004/20 **Declarations of Interest** – There were no declarations of interest.

005/20 **Public Questions:** There were no members of the public present.

006/20 **Minutes of Amenities Meeting** – 16<sup>th</sup> March 2020.  
The minutes of the meeting held on 16<sup>th</sup> March were unanimously approved for signature and duly signed.

007/20 **Site Updates:**

1. **Grove Rd PF:**

- (a) Workshop Rebuild: The Clerk reported that work is now once again progressing well. Railings are expected to be fitted this week, the floors are laid within the workshop, and CBC have paid the S106 invoices up to and including the current invoice (#5). It is expected that the container will be removed from site at the end of August.
- (b) Cone Climber: The Clerk reported that the Annual Inspection of the play equipment had highlighted the issue of the Cone Climber, but did



not attribute fault to the manufacturer. The clerk's opinion of the matter was based upon

- (i) the age of the equipment – now almost 10 years old
- (ii) the manufacturers robust defence of their equipment when recently reported, was that any claim would be hard to prove, as the manufacturer was not officially told of any issue until recently, when in fact the problem has persisted for over 5 years.

The equipment is currently safe to use, but this will become increasingly less safe over the next 4-6 months (*estimate only, but the item will be under close investigation*), after which it will need to be removed. It was **resolved to investigate replacing the equipment with another item at the next meeting of the committee.**

- (c) Tarmacking: The Clerk reported that the Basketball court and the area in front of the skate park had now been re-tarmacked. The contractors had done a good job.
- (d) Stream Re-wilding: The management of the stream that separates that two fields at Grove Rd Playing Fields was discussed, in order to help introduce wildflowers in a natural setting, which in turn would encourage butterflies and other pollinators. The committee were united and **resolved to amend the management of the stream to incorporate a wildflower bank on each side of the stream.**

## 2. Lakes:

- (a) Duck Feeding Notices: The Clerk provided examples of both a prohibitive notice and an informative notice for the committee to review. Both were unanimously agreed.
- (b) Pumps: The clerk reported that he had spoken to 3 companies, attempting to gain quotes for the repair of the non-working pumps. Because of the location (out on the island), the companies were looking to charge for attending site to obtain the pumps and quote – The head Groundsman reported that one of the companies had already attended site without cost and obtained the pumps for inspection. We therefore await their quote
- (c) Picnic Table and bins: the area around the lake is popular, and the few tables over-subscribed. The chairman had included placing an additional picnic table on the site. The committee agreed the value in adding another table (and at Park Lane), but as there was no budget set aside for this in the current Financial Year, it was agreed to add this to next year's budget. The Clerk also reported on the need to provide 2 new bins at the Lake, a further bin (vandalised) at the Skate Park, and 2 bins on either end of FP 14 (East of Florence Park). **The purchase of 5 bins was approved by Committee from the street furniture budget.**
- (d) Tree Work: The committee noted the need for the removal of the Horse Chestnut Tree (T6) at the top of the Park, in accordance with the Annual survey report and also the dead wooding at Park Lane. The quotes were reviewed, and **the quote provided by Be Green was accepted as best value for money and approved.**
- (e) Fish: The clerk reported that the fish within the lake were now of a size that they should be removed, prior to the hot summer months when oxygenation becomes a problem. There were a number of "fry"



still about, which may hamper the process, but it was worth setting wheels in motion with the fishing club to look at removal. Committee agreed and asked the clerk to begin the process.

**3. Memorial Garden:**

- (a) Re-Opening: The clerk reported that the first interment had now occurred (15<sup>th</sup> July), and as the site was now in use, normal opening hours had resumed.
- (b) Shed: The Head Groundsman reported that the new shed was in place, with a much-improved secure storage capacity.
- (c) CCTV: The Vice Chairman reported that the Security working group would shortly be reviewing all CCTV throughout the village, and this would be incorporated.

**4. Park Lane –**

- (a) Weed wipe – The head groundsman reported that this had happened in late May, and it appears to have worked.
  - (b) Pond Excavation – This too had recently been completed by the contractor, and the Head Groundsman was satisfied with the work
  - (c) Tree work – This refers to the “dead-wooding” as quoted by Be Green, and accepted by the committee earlier (*under (2d)*).
  - (d) Picnic Table – Please refer to (2c), where this item was deferred for budgetary approval
5. Windmill Green – The clerk reported on the meeting held on site with CBC regarding their tree planting initiative. Whilst the CBC initiative allowed them to meet their goals in terms of tree planting, it was felt that the plan did not offer better amenity for the village. The dead tree (also reported in the annual tree survey) alongside the Kelvedon Road should however be removed. A replacement tree of equal stature would require significant funding.
6. Caxton Close: The second gate is now opened daily providing a second entrance/exit to the park.

It was **resolved to note the entirety of the report provided.**

- 008/20 **Amenities Business Plan:** The chairman’s business plan was reviewed to ensure that all business was captured. There being nothing to add, the **report was received and noted.**
- 009/20 **ECC Salt Distribution Scheme:** Cllr Wood brought this item to the attention of members, in order to determine if there where to be any value in the self-gritting scheme. Members were concerned about (a) storage and (b) volunteers for distribution. The idea did not find favour and was rejected by the majority.
- 010/20 **S106 priorities:** The report format (and “inside” and Outside” report) was discussed and the contents noted with the addition of (a) seating and A/C for the Community Centre and (b) the addition of the Contribution for the toilet rebuild, Acquisition of meadowlands above Peakes Meadow and the removal of the Scout Hut from the “outside” list.  
**It was resolved to receive and note the list, with the addition as stated.**



011/20 **Village Caretaker Report:** The head Groundsman reported that the new Village Caretaker has fitted in to the team well, and that there were only good reports on his work. It was **resolved to receive and note the report.**

012/20 Financial Comparison  
A financial report for the Amenities Committee was discussed. **The report was received and noted.**

There being no other business the meeting closed at 20.17

Signed.....*D. M. Webb*.....Date.....*19.10.20*.....