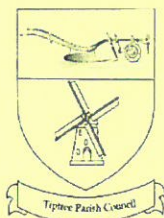


## TIPTREE PARISH COUNCIL



### MINUTES OF AMENITIES COMMITTEE MEETING

A meeting of the Amenities Committee took place on Monday 29<sup>th</sup> March 2021 at 7.00pm via Video Conference.

Present Cllrs: Cllr D Webb (Chairman) (*arrived at 19:23*)  
Cllr R Mannion (Vice Chairman) Cllr D Coe  
Cllr B Wood Cllr J Greenwood

*Also in attendance* – two members of the public, The Clerk of the Council and the Head Groundsman.

- 036/20 **Apologies for Absence** – There were apologies of absence from Cllr N Anderson, who was involved in a work project, and Cllr Webb who would be late arriving (Internet Issues).
- 037/20 **Declarations of Interest** – There were no declarations of interest.
- 038/20 **Public Questions:** The Manager of Leisure World was in attendance, and provided a brief introduction, expressing a desire to work with the council. Also in attendance was the Leader of the Tiptree Litter Pickers Volunteer Group, who provided some background to agenda item 043/20
- 039/20 **Minutes of Amenities Meeting** – 18<sup>th</sup> January 2021.  
The minutes of the meeting held on 18<sup>th</sup> January were unanimously approved for signature.
- 040/20 **Site Updates:** The clerk provided a brief update on staff retuning to work in accordance with the Governments COVID return to work guidance.

1. **Grove Rd PF:**

- (a) **Cone Climber:** The Clerk reported that the replacement Nest swing had now been ordered, but that a delivery/installation date had not been confirmed. **The report was received and noted.**
- (b) **Land Transfers:** The clerk reported that the Coriander Road Land transfer is nearly ready for signature, but this land is subject to any restrictive covenants that may have been imposed on it before 8 March 2016 and are subsisting and capable of taking effect. Coverage against third parties seeking to enforce the covenants is just £56 as secured by the Law firm. The Committee **Resolved Unanimously to proceed with the coverage.**
- (c) **Hedge Quotes:** The quotes for hedge work on both Windmill Green and Gove Park were reviewed. In view of the inordinate length of time taken to receive any quotes for this work, and the reasonable price



quoted, it was unanimously **RESOLVED to accept both quotes** (to be paid for from the tree work budget line).

- (d) Stream Re-wilding: *(Cllr Webb joined the meeting, at this point, and resumed her role as chairman)*. The chairman stated that a survey had been conducted by herself and Cllr Greenwood, and a brief report had been written. Areas of concern for re-wilding the stream had been noted, but a further site meeting with groundsman was required in order to understand current maintenance objectives. This would be held in late June, once flora was in full bloom and clearly visible.
- (e) Jnr Play Equipment: The Chairman reported that a recent discussion with onsite parents regarding the play equipment, determined the need for challenging climbing equipment beside the existing "purple" apparatus.
- (f) Dog Walkers: The Head Groundsman's report of dog walkers now flaunting the "No Dogs" signs and using Grove Park for off the leash exercise was becoming a concern. The clerk reported that he too had received two phone calls on the issue. The picking up of dog faeces on site has become a major task, and it is not safe in a children's play area. It was **RESOLVED to highlight the matter on social media and the web site, informing the public that our CCTV coverage may be used against offenders.**

## 2. Lakes:

- (a) Rats: The clerk reported that an infestation of rats was creating concern at Grove Lake. The Head Groundsman had reported the incident in late 2020, and attempted to control the situation with baiting. The incidence was not resolved by the baiting we provided, and so CBC were called in. They too have baited the site, and we hope that this will have resolved the situation. The problem stems from feeding the ducks, where leftover food provides a ready meal for the thriving rat population.
- (b) Pumps: The clerk reported that the replacement pump had not yet been delivered to site, and that he would continue chasing the item.
- (c) Tree Work: The committee noted that the contractor had now invoiced for the tree work at (i) Church Rd, where the undergrowth and saplings that had been cut back at the Public toilets was all chipped and removed (ii) The dead wooding at Park Lane was now complete, as was the removal of Tree T6 at Grove Lake/Peirce Glade intersection. The removal of tree T5 would occur once ground was firm enough to enable vehicular access.
- (d) Bridge: The Pierce Glade bridge had unfortunately been vandalised, with the railing kicked off. The Grounds staff are in the process of rebuilding the safety railing.
- (e) Railings: The Head Groundsman reported that the work on painting the railings facing Church Road would commence in late May, and would be dealt with in a piecemeal fashion.

## 3. Memorial Garden:

- (a) Bookings and Upkeep: The clerk reported that there are no new bookings due to the COVID situation. The head groundsman reported that the site did need some additional upkeep after the lockdown mainly due to nearby cats digging in the plants.



- (b) Planters: The Chairman asked the committee if the idea of planters and some vibrant coloured plants would be something they would like. After discussion, it was determined that pricing for planters would be needed, in order to progress the discussion.

4. **Park Lane –**

- (a) Weed wipe – The previous meeting of the committee had approved the weed wipe for Spring, but a timeline had not yet been set. The clerk was tasked with pursuing this.
- (b) Tree work – This reported that the “dead-wooding” as quoted by Be Green was complete and the tree “thinning” work to be undertaken by Mick Dunn will occur once ground dries out enough.
- (c) Site Visit – Planned for April 15<sup>th</sup>.
- (d) Pond Coir Matting – will be discussed on the site visit.

5. **Windmill Green –**

- (a) Hedge Line: see (1c) for the resolution of this quote.
- (b) Trees: The chairman stated that the four new mature trees had been planted on Windmill Green and looked to be in fine shape.

6. **Site Meetings** – The chairman stated that site meetings for all of the areas of interest (including land transfer possible sites) would commence in late May.

It was **resolved to note the entirety of the report provided, with action at items (1b,1c and 1f as shown).**

- 041/20 **Scout Hut Replacement**: The clerk reported that a very comprehensive report had been received from the previous Chairman of the Scouts, stating that the “project” had not progressed beyond the need to build an architect’s design. A costing an architect had been provided by the scouts, but not followed up. **It was Resolved that the item (because of cost) be brought to full council for next steps.**
- 042/20 **Annual Christmas Tree – Windmill Green**: The clerk reported that following Full Council approval to proceed, initial discussion with staff had been held, and the first order (for conduit) will shortly be placed. **The report was Received and Noted.**
- 043/20 **Tiptree Litter pickers**: The committee spent some time listening to the head of the Tiptree Litter pickers, who was concerned that Tiptree was growing, as was the amount litter being dropped. He stated that the volunteer group was decreasing in size through attrition. Of those remaining, most are reaching an age where they too are considering their ability to keep doing the work. The overall concern was therefore to ensure that litter picking continues within Tiptree. In order to assist the group to attract future litter pickers, it was **RESOLVED that the Litter Pickers would provide a list of future “events”, which would be published by the Parish Council via Social media and the web site.**

044/20 **S106 priorities:** The report was discussed, and no changes from the agreed list after the January meeting was proposed and unanimously agreed. **It was resolved to receive and note the list.**

045/20 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 20.53

Signed.....*D. M. Webb*.....Date.....*13.07.21*.....