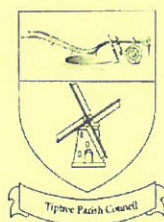


## TIPTREE PARISH COUNCIL



### MINUTES OF AMENITIES COMMITTEE MEETING

A meeting of the Amenities Committee took place on Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> July 2021 at 7.00pm in the Small Hall at the Community Centre, 1a Caxton Close, Tiptree.

Present Cllrs: Cllr D Webb (Chairman) Cllr J Greenwood  
Cllr N Mattinson Cllr A Peck  
Cllr B Wood

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

001/21 **Election of Chairman:** It was properly proposed and seconded that Cllr D Webb be elected as Chairman. **The vote unanimously resolved that Cllr Webb be Chairman for the period 2021/2022.**

002/21 **Election of Vice Chairman:** It was properly proposed and seconded that Cllr R Mannion be elected as Vice-Chairman. **The vote unanimously resolved that Cllr Mannion be Vice-Chairman for the period 2021/2022.**

003/21 **Apologies for Absence** – There were apologies of absence from Cllr Mannion.

004/21 **Declarations of Interest** – There were no declarations of interest.

**Chairman's Announcements:** The chairman welcomed the new members to the committee (Cllrs. Peck and Mattinson).

005/21 **Public Questions:** None.

006/21 **Minutes of Amenities Meeting** – 29<sup>th</sup> March 2021.  
The minutes of the meeting held on 29<sup>th</sup> March were unanimously approved for signature.

007/21 **Site Updates:**

1. **Grove Rd PF:**

(a) **Land Transfers:** The clerk reported that the allotments at Nine Acres are expected to be handed over in November of this year, and should be ready for residents in Dec/Jan.

(b) **Hedge Trimming:** The hedge work on both Windmill Green and Grove Park have now been scheduled and will occur in early September.

(c) **Stream Re-wilding:** The chairman reported that a meeting with the grounds staff had determined that a “do nothing” (other than plant a few summer-flower bearing bulbs) was considered the best approach going forward. This was agreed by the Committee.

(d) Wet Pour resurfacing: The recent annual inspection of Play equipment cited a problem with our wet-pour surfaces at Grove Road PF, where a number of sites would need replacing due to wear and tear. Committee were concerned of the cost of the repair, and asked for quotes for the work, and also alternative solutions.

**2. Lakes:**

(a) Rats: The clerk reported that the rat problem at the Lake appears to have diminished, but is still there. The Head Groundsman baited the island site once again. The situation is being constantly monitored, but whilst the feeding of the ducks continues, the leftover food provides a ready meal for the rat population.

(b) Pumps: The clerk reported that the replacement pump is in place, and that water quality is already improving.

(c) Vandalism: The picnic table onsite has been melted by a “throwaway” BBQ unit being used on the table. The table is still usable (although unsightly). The Head Groundsman is investigating repair feasibility. A bin onsite was also vandalised, and will be replaced shortly.

**3. Memorial Garden:**

(a) Upkeep: The Chairman reported that the site appears to be in good condition, with planting of hedging now properly bedded in. The only remaining hedging to complete is the front railings. The report was noted.

**4. Park Lane –**

(a) Site Visit – Occurred on April 15<sup>th</sup>. Efforts to get contractors engaged in the (i) weed wipe and (ii) tree thinning have yet to bear fruit, but are ongoing, and work is expected to be complete by September. The chairman reported that she would be progressing the search for Interpretation Boards, and would be speaking to TCV about their capacity to resume work on the hedging.

(b) Vandalism – The picnic table (as at Grove Lake) was melted by a throw-away BBQ kit.

**5. Caxton Close/Coriander Road Site Visit Report–**

(a) Site Report: The chairman asked to progress the replacement of the wooden play equipment with inclusive play, such as a wheelchair friendly roundabout and nest swing. The Clerk was asked to provide quotes for the next meeting.

(b) CCTV warning signs: Members were keen to ensure that CCTV signs were placed within the play area, as this would hopefully also reduce littering. The clerk was tasked with delivering the signage.

(c) Consultation on Future use of Coriander Rd site: A public consultation was requested to neighbouring properties for future use of the site (Remain as is, equip for children’s play, provide adult fitness trail, or an outdoor picnic area). The clerk will provide a draft version of the consultation for the next meeting.

It was **resolved to note the entirety of the reports provided at (1) through (5).**

- 008/21 **Tractor Replacement:** The existing Kuboto Tractor is proving to be more expensive to run now that it is over 15 years old. Three separate quotes were sought as a replacement, with the "New Holland T4S" proving to be the most cost effective. Councillors debated the value, and having determined funding (EMR funds for Park Lane), **unanimously RESOLVED to forward the matter to Full Council with the Amenities Committee's approval for purchase of the New Holland tractor.**
- 009/21 **Opens Spaces Society:** The committee noted that the Full Council had gone ahead with the application and joined the Society in early July.
- 010/21 **Christmas Tree – Windmill Green:** The clerk provided a verbal update, stating that work had now commenced, with a few of the wooden posts needing to be replaced by drop-down bollards, to ensure HGV access to the site allowing the tree delivery. The site of the tree will shortly be dug, and the ducting placed. **The report was Received and Noted.**
- 011/21 **Youth Conference:** The chairman had recently (May) attended training on youth engagement. The written report of the meeting was discussed by members, and it was requested that the clerk write to ECC Cllr R Gooding so that he may be invited to address members. **The report was Received and Noted.**
- 012/21 **Upcoming Site Visits:** The chairman re-iterated the need for site visits, and asked for the next site visit to Grove Rd PF and Grove Lake be held on Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> July. A 10:00am start has been suggested. In August, the site meeting will take place at Park Lane. Date and time to be decided by Chairman.
- 013/21 **Commemoration Tree: HRH the Prince Philip.** Members discussed the placement of a tree, and determined that Windmill Green be the most acceptable site, and that the tree should be a substantial sized native Oak. The clerk was requested to obtain quotes.
- 014/20 **S106 priorities:** The report was discussed, and no changes from the agreed list after the March meeting was proposed and unanimously agreed. **It was resolved to receive and note the list.**
- 015/20 **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 20.33

Signed D. M. Webb ..... Date 17.08.21 .....