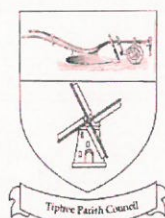


TIPTREE PARISH COUNCIL



MINUTES OF AMENITIES COMMITTEE MEETING

A meeting of the Amenities Committee took place on Tuesday 13th December 2022 at 7.00pm in the Meeting Room at the Tiptree Community Centre, Caxton Close.

Present Cllrs: Cllr D Webb (Chairman)
Cllr J Greenwood

Cllr A Peck (Vice Chairman)
Cllr C Kitley

Also in attendance – The Clerk to the Council.

075/22 **Apologies for Absence:** Cllr B Wood provided her apologies, as did the Head Groundsman.

076/22 **Declarations of Interest** – There were no declarations of interest.

077/22 **Chairman's Announcements:** The chairman reported on the letter of thanks received by the TYPO organisation for their award of £1,500 to enable the continuation of Youth work in the Village. She also reported that a quote had been received for the future "trimming back" of trees at Grove Lake, and would be an Agenda item for 2023.

078/22 **Public Questions:** None

079/22 **Minutes of Amenities Meeting** – The minutes of the meeting held on 8th November were unanimously approved for signature.

Cllr Kitley joined the meeting

080/22 **Site Updates:**

1. Grove Rd. Playing Field:

(a) Land Transfer: Cllr Wood was unable to attend, and had provided a "chase-up" email to CCC, which had been responded too, stating that the restriction on the transfer of Land was Placed by the Land Registry office, and that Taylor Wimpey (as transferee) were best placed to get this removed. All parties are now awaiting Taylor Wimpey.

(b) Trees: The Clerk reported that the 3 new Trees from Essex County Council had been planted and all looked healthy.

2. Lakes:

(a) Duck Pond refurbishment: The Clerk reported that the contractor had now completed all works. It was appreciated that the inflow

from Church Road is missing a "slat", and this would be completed in Spring, once a suitable concrete board had been sourced.

- (b) Fencing: Three quotes had been received for fencing off the "Gabion accessible" areas of the pond. After discussion, the Committee unanimously **Resolved that Stow Forge be awarded the bid**, as they provided the quote with the best Value for Money.

3. **Memorial Garden:**

- (a) Xmas Tree. The committee were informed that the Christmas Tree (a Blue Spruce) had now been planted at the Memorial Garden and looked good. The Chairman was concerned that visitors were not aware that they could add ornaments during the festive season and asked for Facebook notification to this effect.
- (b) Wooden tubs: The idea of using wooden tubs instead of pottery was approved by Committee, and Cllr Kitley provided a link for a local supplier to the Clerk. It was unanimously agreed to source 2 half tubs for planting climate resistant plants and place near the Gazebo.

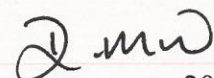
4. **Park Lane:**

- (a) Cut and Collect – The Chairman reported that the contractor completed the work onsite.
- (b) Play Equipment Trail – The Chairman reported the type of wooden play equipment she would like to see placed at Park Lane. Because of budget pressure and competing priorities, it was not agreed to immediately fund the project, but rather place this on the "projects List", and then determine at a later date the agreed urgency and timeline.
- (c) TCV – The Chairman reported that conversations with TCV had begun regards additional work they could complete at Park Lane. No formal response had yet been received.
- (d) Interpretation Boards – The Chairman reported that surveys of birds and flowers would be conducted in the Spring, and it was therefore decided by Committee that work on the Interpretation Boards would begin once confirmed species had been properly audited.

It was **resolved to note the entirety of the Site Update report provided, taking specific action where noted.**

081/22

Thyme Road: The committee had previously visited site the day before the meeting (after Full Council referral). After a lengthy discussion, It was agreed that a letter be sent to Colchester City Homes (CCH). The letter was to enquire as to their intentions for the site, noting it's LAP designation, and enquiring how they intended to maintain a site that was an attractive place for locals to use. Should they find this hard to justify, TPC would be willing to take over the site to ensure the LAP designation does not falter, as TPC is vehemently opposed to the loss of any Open Space designation. **It was RESOLVED that the letter (as outlined above) be sent by the Clerk.**



- 082/22 **Climate Change Actions/ Strategy:** The Chairman provided an update on the Nature Recovery Program Pilot, of which Tiptree were but 1 of 3 sites selected in all of Essex. The first steps would be a baseline audit of the current situation. The Chairman then explained that this would be part of the wider Climate Action Plan provided by TPC. The Climate Action Plan did have an item that was stalled and needed impetus: Nitrous Oxide (NoX) levels on Church Road. It was **RESOLVED that the Report be received and Noted, and that Cllr Scott (ECC Highways) be sent a letter requesting NoX Monitoring be carried out on Church Rd beside St Lukes School.**
- 083/22 **Site Visit:** The Chairman reported on the recent visit to the Memorial Gardens /Winston Avenue. The Memorial Gardens were (once again) looking exceptional, and the work of the grounds team was praised. The requirement for a formal Management Plan at the Memorial Garden was discussed, as was the need to include a long term plan for the Raised Beds in the Project List. Winston Avenue is still in CCC ownership, but the value of handing the site to TPC was understood by all, and the Clerk was asked to provide a "chaser" to CC regarding this. **It was resolved to Receive and Note the report.**
- 084/22 **Parish Signage:** The quotes for revised signage at Grove Road Playing Field were examined. It was **RESOLVED that SignBase be awarded the business on the bases of cost, clarity of quote and value for money.**
- 085/22 **Youth Report:** There was no report submitted by the TYPO, but the Chairman was able to report that the organisation had recently received a grant of money for play equipment, and they were discussing a table tennis table, but this would create storage problems at the Community Centre. **It was resolved to Receive and Note the report.**
- 086/22 **Financial Comparison**
A financial report on Budget Vs Spend for the Amenities Committee was provided. **The report was received and noted.**

There being no other business the meeting closed at 20.43

Signed.. D. M. Webb Date 17.01.23