

# ALTON Town Council



Telephone (01420) 83986  
www.alton.gov.uk  
info@alton.gov.uk

Town Hall  
Market Square  
Alton  
Hampshire  
GU34 1HD

Town Clerk: Mrs Leah Coney

02 September 2015

Dear Councillor

You are hereby summoned to a meeting of the **OPEN SPACES COMMITTEE** in the Town Hall, Market Square, Alton on **Wednesday, 9 September 2015 at 7:00pm** when the under mentioned business will be transacted.

**PLEASE NOTE THERE WILL BE A PRE MEETING BRIEFING AT 6.30 P.M. ATTENDED BY SERGEANT CLAIRE WINTER, ALTON POLICE**

Yours sincerely

Mrs Leah Coney  
Town Clerk

To: Members of the Open Spaces Committee

Councillor Matthew Bayliss	-	Chairman
Councillor Mike Dicker	-	Vice Chairman
Councillor Mrs Sharon Cullen		
Councillor Derek Gardner		
Councillor Graham Hill		
Councillor Mrs Pam Jones		
Councillor James Voller		

Copied to: All other Councillors for information

**ALTON TOWN COUNCIL**

**OPEN SPACES COMMITTEE – 09 SEPTEMBER 2015**

**AGENDA**

- 1 Chairman's announcements
- 2 Apologies for absence
- 3 Minutes of previous meeting held on 15 July 2015
- 4 Declarations of Interests - Councillors are reminded of their responsibility to declare any disclosable pecuniary interest which they may have in any item of business on the agenda no later than when that item is reached. Unless dispensation has been granted, you may not participate in any discussion of, or vote on any matter in which you have a pecuniary interest. You must withdraw from the room when the meeting discusses and votes on the matter.
- 5 To consider any requests for Dispensations to allow Councillors with pecuniary interests to speak and vote
- 6 Questions from members of the public (including those received in writing).
- 7 Progress report - Molson Coors: Anstey Park Enclosure & Chawton Park Bowls Club
- 8 Progress report - Use of Sport England Grant at Anstey Park.
- 9 Allotment Update
  - (i) Allotment Plots
  - (ii) Plot Inspections
  - (iii) Site Updates
  - (iv) Allotment Association
- 10 Grounds Team Report (including Staffing)
- 11 Progress report – Persimmon Homes Chandos Lodge
- 12 Finance Report to 30 August 2015 (to follow)
- 13 Miscellaneous Updates: (verbal updates)
  - (i) Flood Meadows Steering Group
  - (ii) Ecological Reports
  - (iii) Kings Pond Management including volunteer help.
- 14 Out of Hours Working – Grounds Maintenance Team.
- 15 Use of Public Gardens for the Alton Climate Change Rally – Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> November

**CONFIDENTIAL**

- 16 Security Patrols 2015 and Locking of Public Gardens

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Ferguson advised that the inaugural meeting of the Flood Meadows Steering Group is being arranged for the middle of August and that Dog Management would be placed on the Agenda.

2. Mr Mike Penn, representing the Alton Allotments Association, spoke in support of seeking the council to take forward the Allotment Advisory Sub Committee to act as conduit for communication between the council and the association. He advised that although a fledgling committee this year the association was keen to continue the working relationship which had recently been re-established with the council and promoted the important role that allotments played in the community in terms of health, well-being and social interaction. In responding Councillor Bayliss acknowledged two letters which he had received from the Chairman of the Allotment Association.
3. Ms Anne Forsyth, School Travel Plan Adviser spoke in support of the proposal put forward for consideration in using Anstey Park as a drop off area for parents and allowing pupils to make use of the public right way across Anstey Park to enter the school grounds. The school is taking positive steps to encourage cycling, scooting and walking to school and has been successful in securing funding for a new £22,500 cycle shed to be erected at the school. They are hopeful of doubling the number of pupils making use of the cycle lanes and are looking to incentivise the promotion of reducing the number of vehicle movements of parents dropping children off at school. Mrs Janice Finnimore advised of two accidents outside the school and the serious health and safety concerns they have. In looking at options, they believe that utilising Anstey Park for this purpose would alleviate some of these concerns and were hopeful of the council's support of its proposals. Councillor Gardener advised that Anstey Park was already being used as a "rat-run" for drivers trying to avoid the problems of trying to exit Anstey Lane due to the queuing traffic on Anstey Road. Councillor Bayliss asked the question of "Why now?" and in responding the representatives advised that the road design and traffic lights are causing the problems and congestion is a real issue leading to thoughtless behaviour on the part of drivers and parents dropping off pupils. Councillor Bayliss in asking whether the school had consulted Highways on the issues, was advised that it was Highways who suggested Anstey Park could provide a solution to alleviating some of the current problems. Councillor Hill stated that the access into Anstey Park both from Anstey Lane and London Road was single lane and narrow. There were two nurseries, both of which use Anstey Park for access and drop off and further vehicle movements in and out of the park would result in creating another problem but at a different location. Councillor Bayliss asked what consideration the school had given to the provision of marshalling in Anstey Park to assist with securing the safety of children but in responding this had not been considered.
4. Mr Ben Norfolk representing Alton United FC and also speaking on behalf of Alton Town FC advised that both clubs are in full support of the Molson Coors plans for the Anstey Park Enclosure although there are several issues still to be resolved, including the question of a Molson Coors providing a new perimeter fence to ensure the security of the new facility along with the commencement of negotiations with the Town Council on a new Lease.
5. Councillor Hicks provided an update to the plans which had been received from Molson Coors both for Anstey Park and the Chawton Park Road site and would be able to provide input when the item came up for discussion on the Agenda.

#### **128 Use of Anstey Park by Eggar's School**

Members debated the proposal before it for the use of Anstey Park to provide a drop off point for pupils of Eggar's School. Councillors expressed a great deal of sympathy with the school but

agreed that access into Anstey Park from London Road is narrow and there is a children's nursery directly opposite as well as a children's nursery located within Anstey Park itself. The Committee also agreed that current problems at Eggar's may be alleviated somewhat later in the year when the car park area at the Persimmons site is vacated by the developers. Whilst other options could be put forward by the school, all councillors agreed that they would not wish to see an approach to provide a hard surface footpath across Anstey Park and that further representation to the Highways Authority should be made by the school. On the proposal of Councillor Hill, seconded by Councillor Mrs Jones, it was

**RESOLVED**

To reject the request from Eggar's School to utilise the car parking area at Anstey Park as a drop off point for their Park and Stride Scheme.

**129 Molson Coors: Anstey Park Enclosure & Chawton Park Bowls Club**

The Leader of the Council, Councillor Hicks had received notification from Molson Coors that they will shortly be serving formal notice to exercise their option to enter into the Building Licences for both sites and seeking approval to utilise part of the car park in Anstey Park as a site compound for storage, wheel washing facilities and incorporating a temporary access point to the Enclosure from the car park for the removal of soil. In response to a number of points raised on behalf of the Town Council, Molson Coors have confirmed they would like to attend a meeting with the council and contractors appointed to undertake the work. Councillor Hicks clarified that the soil being removed from the Anstey Park site is not top soil, but sub soil and has to be taken off site. On the proposal of Councillor Gardner, seconded by Councillor Hill it was

**RESOLVED**

To grant permission for part of the Anstey Park car park to be used as a temporary compound for storage, wheel washing and access to the Enclosure.

**130 Allotment Update**

Members received a comprehensive update report on a meeting held with the Allotment Association on 2<sup>nd</sup> July, the current position on the waiting list for plots (site by site, together with approximate waiting time); the outcome of the plot inspections undertaken to date and a site update on the storage container now in situ on the Spitalfields/Wooteys site. Following the trial period for the maintenance of each of the sites, in agreement with the Chairman of the Allotment Association and the Grounds Manager, this will be handed back to the AA, site by site in a phased handback. Councillors Mrs Jones and Mrs Cullen both agreed to represent the council on the Allotments Advisory Sub Committee which was Resolved to be established in June 2014. In order to clarify the membership of the sub committee, in addition to two councillors, up to five members of the Allotment Association would be invited to attend, together with two officers of the council; Mrs Samantha Brown and Mr Ty Smith.

**NOTED**

**131 Grounds Manager's Report**

The Grounds Manager's report was received and in response to a question regarding the carvings undertaken at Flood Meadows, he confirmed that the Amery Hill Residents Association had confirmed in writing that they were happy with the choice of ducks as the theme for the carvings.

## NOTED

**132 Grounds Team Staffing**

The Grounds Manager reported that two new appointments had been made to the grounds team following the resignations of two former members of staff. Both appointments are subject to the satisfactory completion of a six month probationary period.

## NOTED

**133 Chandos Lodge Site Meeting**

The Committee were disappointed to note that the long awaited hand over of the open space at Barley Fields appears no nearer. Despite a meeting with a representative of Persimmons with the EHDC Arboricultural Officer and the Grounds Manager, no definite timescale had been forthcoming. Councillors were also keen that the S106 Agreement be checked in order to ensure that all conditions are satisfied in relation to the actual area of the open space, to be clearly defined on a site map, as well as the responsibilities attributed to Alton Town Council. Officers were requested to arrange a meeting with Persimmons to establish a timescale and clear responsibilities once the open space is released. A representative from EHDC Planning Department is also to be invited to attend.

## NOTED

**134 Finance Report to 30 June 2015**

The committee received a report on income and expenditure to the year-end 30<sup>th</sup> June 2015. A query was raised as to the loss of income at Anstey Park, but this was due to the Rugby Club had not been invoiced for the junior touch rugby, which had not been raised.

## NOTED

**135 Miscellaneous Updates**

The committee received updates on (i) Flood Meadows Steering Group – a start-up meeting for the group is to be arranged mid-August. (ii) Ecological Reports – have been undertaken by Dr. June Chatfield, but written reports are awaited. Members requested that a copy be circulated to all committee members when received. (iii) Proposal to extinguish part Alton Footpaths 29a and 29b – members noted that these are anomalies as a result of a diversion made in 1960's prior to the building of Eggar's.

## NOTED

**136 Meeting Notes of the Footpath Wardens of 11 June 2015**

Members received the meeting notes of the Footpath Wardens meeting held on 11<sup>th</sup> June. Councillor Mrs Jones enquired as to whether there was any update to the review of stiles at Windmill Hill which was to be undertaken by the Alton Ramblers. Mrs Harris confirmed that information had been received on 15<sup>th</sup> July which had been forwarded to the Grounds Manager for comment. Councillor Mrs Jones also made mention of the Ramblers initiative for reporting overgrown and inaccessible footpaths via a mobile phone app and Mrs Harris advised that a link had already been put on the council's website under its "news" tab.

**NOTED****137 Exclusion of the press and public**

On the proposal of Councillor Mrs Jones, seconded by Councillor Mrs Cullen, it was

**RESOLVED**

That in view of the confidential nature of the business about to be transacted, it is advisable in the public interest that the public and press be temporarily excluded.

**138 Security Patrols 2015**

Members noted the security patrols report and comments regarding the locking of the Public Gardens.

**NOTED****139 Car Park Facilities at Hawthorn Allotment Site**

The committee reviewed the three quotes which had been received to provide permanent car parking facilities at the Hawthorn Allotment Site. This project had been on-going since 2012 but due to budget restraints each year had been deferred. The Allotment Association had confirmed they would like to see the work undertaken this year and Councillors in agreeing to the work being undertaken members requested that the Grounds Manager liaised with the Allotment Association for their views on when the work should be undertaken and the materials to be used. On the proposal of Councillor Mrs Jones, seconded by Councillor Voller it was

**RESOLVED**

To engage Emily's Road Markings to undertake the work as per the quotation received in the sum of £9,730.30 subject to confirmation from the Allotment Association on timing and agreement to materials to be used.

**140 Open Spaces Tree Works**

The Grounds Manager provided a verbal report on the Tree Works carried out on its open spaces in the Alton Conservation Area.

The meeting finished at 9.04 pm.

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## ALTON TOWN COUNCIL

### OPEN SPACES COMMITTEE – 9 SEPTEMBER 2015

#### **MOLSON COORS: ANSTEY PARK ENCLOSURE & CHAWTON PARK BOWLS CLUB**

##### **REPORT BY TOWN CLERK**

Work has now commenced on both the new 3G pitch at Anstey Park and the new bowls facility at Chawton Park Road. Both projects are two-phase and the Town Council has appointed Miles Rankine, a Senior Landscape Architect at Hampshire County Council to provide additional project management support for ATC to ensure the works are being carried out to specification. Molson Coors will reimburse the Council for these professional fees as part of the legal agreement.

The Town Clerk has now had an initial meeting with both the Football Clubs and the Alton Social Bowls Clubs to consider their lease agreements going forward with the new facilities and drafts of these will go before Policy and Resources later this month.

The current details of works on site are as follows:

##### **Anstey Park.**

Monday 17<sup>th</sup> August - commencement of 12 week 3G pitch installation. The contractor for these works is Velocity, based in South Warnborough.

Monday 21<sup>st</sup> September – commencement of works on the changing rooms and stand. The contractor is still to be appointed for this and the pre-start meeting will be held in 2 weeks' time.

During progress meetings a number of issues were identified. As a result ATC will submit a variation to the planning permission to allow for 3m fencing which is deemed more secure than the original 2.4m proposed. This application will also vary the consent as the whole site had to move 2 meters due to underground pipework. In addition, the far side stand was to have the roof removed as it was asbestos, but not replaced as this was not costed within the build specification. Given that the contractors have said the front edge of the stand will need to be removed it was felt more cost effective to remove the whole frame now to prevent invasive work post completion. ATC will consider the cost of this with the clubs and how a replacement shelter for the steps can be funded through grant applications to external bodies.

##### **Chawton Park Bowls Club**

Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> September. – commencement of 8 week groundworks and green installation. The contractor for this is MJ Abbots.

Monday 21<sup>st</sup> September – commencement of 26 weeks pavilion and car park build. A contractor is yet to be appointed and a pre-start meeting is due in 2 weeks' time.

The bowls club are very happy with the proposed plans. There were only de minimis changes discussed at the pre-start meeting for the green installation. Signs have now been erected to note the closure of the unofficial footway across the site and neighbouring clubs and businesses have been notified of the works.



## ALTON TOWN COUNCIL

### OPEN SPACES COMMITTEE – 9 SEPTEMBER 2015

#### SPORT ENGLAND GRANT - ANSTEY PARK

#### PROGRESS REPORT BY TOWN CLERK

In consultation with Cllr Bayliss regarding the works to improve a pitch at Digger's, partially funded by the Sport England grant, the Clerk has now had an opportunity to review this funding resource and contacted to the clubs in regard to pitch usage. As a result a number of issues were made apparent which indicated that ATC would not be able to utilise this grant before it expired and therefore may be better served permitting the rugby club to investigate whether they may have use for it.

As background the grant for £50,000 was awarded to ATC in May 2013 with a two year completion date. That time has now expired. Work was not previously undertaken as there was a need for ATC to match fund the shortfall and such funds were not available. This money has now been received from Molson Coors but there are two fundamental issues:

- 1) Implementing the works by the end of September which Sport England indicated would be required for ATC to utilise the grant
- 2) Whether it was a suitable investment of ATC funds as there is no business plan outlining how the pitch would attract additional usage to justify the additional £40,000 expenditure.

These point are detailed more fully below.

- a) Pitch usage. Demand for pitches at Jubilee is not in excess of supply (currently running at 40 – 60%) and ATC has not turned away booking due to occupancy levels. The new 3G pitch will result in the outside grass pitches across ATC sites will have less use as a training facility, with the exception of the floodlit area, meaning the existing pitches will have better recovery time. Alton Town have confirmed they have no requirement for additional outside pitches. Alton United have worked with ATC to look at how to make better use of the existing areas to accommodate the increased usage. They have not made any commitment to book the proposed new pitch at Diggers if ATC spends the money to undertake the work. Please note Manor Colts did not respond but at this time they are using Jubilee which still has capacity for additional teams and fixtures.
- b) Long term advantages. The grant has been approved for a significant piece of groundworks with a sizable financial burden to ATC (around £40,00 including officer hours and project management) for a pitch which is already usable in its current state. Alton United have booked this pitch for the next couple of months whilst waiting for the 3G to be ready so it is not of sufficiently poor quality to render it unplayable. It would be far most cost effective for ATC to use the vertidrainer to improve the pitch and possibly undertake work with a stone crusher in parts of the site which may have larger flints, as required.
- c) Hiring cost. As junior teams do not hire changing facilities we are looking at an average hire charge of £18 for the additional pitch. The cost of marking and maintaining the pitch covers the hire charge so there is no financial return on the ATC investment until such time as there are multiple bookings per week which is not likely in the foreseeable future.
- d) Timing. The grant has officially expired, but can be extended so long as we can undertake the work by the end of September; if not we would need to re-apply to Sport

- England to extend the grant to the end of the year and the fund is oversubscribed. Alton United, due to the works in the Enclosure preparing the 3G , are temporarily using the pitches at Diggers whilst the works are being carried out so this may preclude carrying out the Sport England works until mid-November at the earliest if a contractor were available were available to start at this time. There is also the matter of going out to tender for the works which has not yet been done. It is the Clerks understanding that Alton RFU together with the RFU may be able to put a case to Sport England to extend the grant a little longer so they could undertake the works
- e) Funding. If ATC wishes to commit to using the Molson Coors £40,000 for Open Spaces then it may be worth investigating improving other facilities at Anstey Park such as new netball/tennis courts which would provide a multi-use facility for a number of sports.

ATC has an obligation to ensure that the grant money and any ATC funding is used in the most beneficial way and results in a longer term payback for both sports clubs in Alton and the Council purse.

In light of these issues Alton RFC have been advised that they may make an approach to Sport England to see if the grant can be utilised on the floodlit pitch rather than being lost. They are currently in discussion and will keep ATC updated on progress.

Members are asked to note the content of this report.

## **ALTON TOWN COUNCIL**

### **OPEN SPACES COMMITTEE – 9 SEPTEMBER 2015**

#### **ALLOTMENTS UPDATE**

**FOR INFORMATION**

#### **REPORT BY ADMIN OFFICER**

#### **ALLOTMENT PLOTS**

Since the last report to Committee on the 3 June, I report an up-to-date position in respect of plot allocation is as follows. Two vacant plots had been offered to people on the waiting list, given until the 21 September to respond. The waiting list now stands at 29, including 14 names that have been added to the waiting list since 1 January 2015.

#### **PLOT INSPECTIONS**

Plot inspections continue to be undertaken by Ty Smith, Grounds Manager and John Pritchard, Allotments Association Chairman, accompanied by the Site Representatives. Since my last report of the 3 June, two tenants have had their tenancies terminated due to their plots not being up to standard over the last three inspections and are the two being allocated. The final inspection of the season will be carried out in October.

#### **SITE UPDATE**

Work will commence on the car park at Hawthorns on the 21 September for a period of five days. A notice will be displayed on the gate and a letter sent to all Hawthorns ploholders informing them that they will not be able to park on the site and remind them they cannot park on the road of Hawthorns itself and be considerate to residents during this time.

#### **ALLOTMENT ASSOCIATION**

The Allotment Association are holding an Extraordinary General Meeting on the 7 October with a proposal to have the Association membership collected at the same time as the annual rents collected by the Town Council. In 2013 a trial took place where both rents and memberships were obtained from the council with the membership passed on to the Association on completion of the collection. The process worked well and also saw an increase in membership to the Association. Depending on the decision made at the meeting will establish whether the collection of memberships will be made at the same rents.

The Committee is invited to note this report.

**ALTON TOWN COUNCIL**

**OPEN SPACES COMMITTEE – 9<sup>th</sup> September 2015**

**GROUNDS TEAM REPORT**

**REPORT BY GROUNDS MANAGER**

**FOR INFORMATION**

**1. Anstey Park**

- Routine mowing is taking place. The usual 4 rugby pitches are being marked for the coming season, three mini soccer pitches are being marked on Diggers due to a demand from Alton UTD during ground improvement works. Due to the wet weather the top surface of Anstey Park was affected by the Battle of Alton camping but this is purely aesthetic and vehicles were prohibited from using the hiring pitches to prevent any damage.

**2. Jubilee Playing Fields**

- Cricket fixtures have finished and the squares will be put to bed this month. Football pitches are being marked for the coming season. Routine mowing is taking place.

**3. Public Gardens**

- Weeding and cultivation of the beds is on-going. Routine mowing is taking place. A member of the public has highlighted the poor state of part of the perimeter path. Quotations are currently being obtained for this work and investigations made as to possible grant funding sources.

**4. Open Spaces (Kings Pond, Windmill Hill, Flood Meadows, Northanger Close, Holybourne and Allotment sites)**

- Windmill Hill: Routine visits to mow paths check boundaries and fences. Some large logs have been put on site to allow walkers a place to rest. A grant application has been submitted to EHDC to match fund a trial wildflower planting area, install dog waste bins and install natural log seating.
- Kings Pond: Weir clearing of debris as required. Some areas along the pond edge have been cleared. Routine mowing is being carried out. A meeting is being arranged with a representative from Birdworld who is offering funding towards an interpretive map board for the site.
- Northanger: Regular visits taking place, ditch checked for obstructions. Routine grass cutting is being carried out.
- Flood Meadows Daily litter checks. Routine grass cutting is being carried out. Some trees that were highlighted in the inspections have been removed, the carving of the stumps has taken place.

- Holybourne: Regular checks to play equipment and litter pick. Routine grass cutting is taking place.
- Allotment Sites: Site inspections have been carried out with site representatives. Surrendered plots are being strimmed before being re-let.
- Butts: Regular mowing is taking place. The funfair is due to visit towards the end of the month.
- Grounds Team: The team is now back to full strength with the addition of an Environmental/Conservation apprentice.

The committee is invited to note this report.

## ALTON TOWN COUNCIL

### OPEN SPACES COMMITTEE – 9 SEPTEMBER 2015

#### PERSIMMON HOMES / CHANDOS LODGE

#### PROGRESS REPORT BY TOWN CLERK

Following the meeting held on site with the Grounds Team Manager back in June, the Town Clerk contacted Persimmon Homes in late July to ascertain when work was due to commence on site, given that the company was now in breach of its s106 agreement by failing to undertake the work in the stated timescale. Persimmon indicated that they would prefer to hand over the land to ATC in its current state with a financial incentive so that ATC could carry out the proposed works instead. This would require a variation to the legal agreement as it would be in breach of the current arrangement. The Clerk researched the cost of the works, and indicated to Persimmon that in order to take on the burden of the project, a sum of £86,000 would be required to cover the cost of the works and the management of the project (excluding legal fees to vary the S106 and in addition to the playground sum and commuted sums already in the legal agreement) and would be subject to approval from the Council. The Grounds Team Manager was consulted and he indicated he had no objection to this as it would mean the works would be carried out to ATCs specification. Unfortunately a large amount of spoil has been added to area by the developer which has covered the site in stones and needs to be buried or broken up which adds to the cost of the works.

Given this indicative cost, Persimmon have decided that they might be able to undertake the works themselves after all and have arranged alternative quotations from contractors during August. It has been repeatedly reiterated to Persimmon that they are currently in breach of their S106 and EHDC have been contacted in this regard as to whether legal action is required to enforce compliance. In addition, the site is in a prominent gateway to the town and such it has been highlighted to Persimmon that this eyesore is both embarrassing and not a good advertisement for the developer.

Needless to say this is an on-going discussion and the Clerk is currently trying to contact the Managing Director of Persimmon to escalate this further. In addition, it has been made clear to Persimmon that neither EHDC or ATC will be taking on the responsibility for the minor open spaces within the site, ATC is only taking ownership of the large spaces to the front of the site, despite Persimmons previous indications to Mr Garside and The Grounds Team Manager

Finally, as the decision to name the site was deferred by the Open Spaces Committee in June the Clerk would politely suggest that given its location, once the works have been finalised thought may be given to asking the children of Eggar's School and St Andrews Endowed School to decide the final name for the site.

## ALTON TOWN COUNCIL

### OPEN SPACES COMMITTEE – 9 SEPTEMBER 2015

#### OUT OF HOURS WORKING – GROUNDS MAINTENANCE TEAM

##### REPORT BY TOWN CLERK

##### FOR DISCUSSION

The following questions have been posed:

- *Who do the public contact at weekends if there is a problem on one of our many open spaces?*
- *Who do Councillors contact and by what means if action is required?*
- *Do the Police have a contact number for weekend emergencies?*

Out of hours working is not currently in force at Alton Town Council nor indeed is it evident in other local councils or higher tiers of local authority across Hampshire.

There is a Member of the Grounds Staff working on Saturday and Sunday for approximately 3 hours mainly litter picking and unlocking the changing rooms for hirings. These are not set hours and vary seasonally. There are a number of options to be investigated if Members wish to pursue an out of hours service.

- 1) Employ a current member of either the Grounds Team or Office Management Team on a rotation basis to respond to calls on a published out of hours phone number advertised across the open spaces and then to respond as required. There will be an out of hours fixed payment to be made which may be in the region of £120 per day to cover the inconvenience of being available at short notice and responding to calls. Hours actually worked are then at time and half or double time depending upon the day (Cost to the Council – circa £15,000 annum )
- 2) Employ an additional member of the regular grounds team who is employed specifically for weekend working and can be contacted should issues arise. (Cost to the Council circa £10,000 per annum + recruitment cost)
- 3) Have a clear emergency planning / contingency plan. This would involve the erection of signage at each open space site indicating what to do in the event of an emergency making it clear that there is no out of hours service and to contact either on 999 or 101 if not life threatening. The Police and Council Leader can be informed of the Clerk and Grounds Manager contact details in the event of an emergency. These numbers would not be in the public domain (Cost to the Council, subject to negotiation with affected staff plus cost of signage,)

Ultimately there is a cost implication to any change in staffing levels, working hours and conditions which members must be fully aware of prior to embarking upon such a service and realising the expectation of the public as to what can and cannot be provided through out of hours provision.

**ALTON TOWN COUNCIL**

**OPEN SPACES COMMITTEE – 9 SEPTEMBER 2015**

**USE OF PUBLIC GARDENS FOR CLIMATE CHANGE RALLY**

**REPORT BY TOWN CLERK**

**FOR DECISION**

**Climate Change: Alton to London and Paris**

The 21<sup>st</sup> United Nations Climate Change Conference is to be held in Paris between 30 November and 11 December this year. Its objective is "...to achieve, for the first time in over 20 years of UN negotiations, a binding and universal agreement on climate, from all the nations of the world." A major rally in support of these vital talks is being held in London on 29 November, along with events in cities all over the world.

Within Alton, a group of concerned individuals has come together under the title of Alton Climate Alliance, to plan an event in Alton between 11.00am and noon on the preceding day, Saturday 28 November. James Willis has been elected as the Alliance's Convenor.

Alton Climate Alliance hope that Alton will thus be one town amongst many providing the team representing Britain at the Climate Change Conference with evidence that it will have overwhelming public support for effective action and face massive public disappointment if it fails. The aim is to make the Alton event as inclusive as possible - actively engaging people of all ages - and strictly non-party political.

The group have requested permission to use the Public Gardens for the purposes of assembly on the 28<sup>th</sup> for their event.

On 30 September, beginning at 7.30pm, they will be holding an open meeting (at which all will be welcome) in the Assembly Rooms, Alton when the detailed plans will be finalised.

Members are therefore asked to consider granting permission for the rally to be held in the Public Gardens. Members are reminded of the public right to peaceful assembly and it is also noted that this is not a request for public support for the event itself as Members may have individual views on this but is a request to use ATC Open Space.