

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 2nd 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 30th 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 11th 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 15th 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.
