



Cllr Bayliss wished to take the opportunity to thank Dr Chatfield for her assistance with the Friends of Flood Meadows group.

2. Mr Pritchard wished to update Members in regard to the Alton Allotment Association. They are currently trying to recruit an additional two people to assist with grass cutting and hedges as unfortunately two of the previous volunteers have been unable to continue. In talking to plot holders Mr Pritchard said he was pleased that there has been a decrease in the number of complaints arising from untended plots. He was pleased at the development of the relationship between the Alton Allotment Association and the Town Council and he looks forward to the first meeting of the Allotment Advisory Sub-Committee. There will be an Extraordinary AGM on the 7<sup>th</sup> October to consider the collection of Alton Allotment Association membership fees by the Town Council when rent renewals are sent out. Cllr Mrs Jones wished to commend Mr Pritchard on the production of the Autumn Newsletter.
3. Cllr Hicks wished to ensure that the publicity for the Northern Wey Trust meeting is undertaken through all available forms of Town Council media not just Facebook.

**199 Progress report – Molson Coors: Anstey Park Enclosure and Chawton Park Bowls Club.**

The Town Clerk's report was received. In addition it was noted that in relation to the Anstey Park Enclosure the Clerk had been advised by Julia Mansi that the changes to the proposed fencing could be undertaken by the Town Council under Part 12 General Permitted Development Order 2015 and therefore not subject to a variation on the planning permission already granted on the site. The Clerk further noted that negotiations are still on-going in regard to the removal of the metal frame on the far side of the pitch and which parties will contribute to this cost but if it is at all possible this will be removed as part of the build process. A further progress meeting for both sites is scheduled for Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> September.

**NOTED**

**200 Progress Report – Use of Sport England Grant at Anstey Park.**

The Town Clerk's report was received. Cllr Bayliss noted that the monies generated by the option agreement with Molson Coors remain unallocated at this time. He further stated that the time for implementing the works in order to claim the original grant for work to Diggers Fields has now expired and therefore the if Alton Rugby Club are able to utilise the grant for the training pitch at Anstey Park to improve the drainage, to the benefit of all park users, this would be welcomed. The question was raised as to whether the grant may be lost completely as the time has officially expired for implementation. The Clerk replied that at this time the RFU are assisting Alton Rugby Club and hopefully will be able to lend their weight to the proposal. It has been noted by Sport England though that should the works not be implemented in a timely manner or the scheme is felt to be too far removed from the original proposal then the club may be asked to withdraw and reapply but that this time discussions are still continuing. Members asked the Clerk to write to Sport England in support of the Rugby Club's application to assist them in their endeavour.

In addition it was noted by Members that this item has raised the issue of the future plans for improving facilities across Anstey Park including the existing netball facilities which are in a poor state of repair. The Clerk was asked to add this to the next meeting agenda for discussion.

**NOTED**

**201 Allotment Update**

The Administration Officer's report was received. Further to the comments made by Mr Pritchard the Clerk was asked by Cllr Dicker to ensure that there was no liability upon the Town Council acting as a third party in respect of collecting membership fees on behalf of the Alton Allotment Association.

Cllr Bayliss said he was pleased to hear the plot inspection regime was working well. He further highlighted the commencement of the works to the car park at Hawthorns next week. Members further commended the installation of the new storage container on the Wooteys and Spitalfields site.

**NOTED**

**202 Grounds Team Report (Including Staffing)**

The Grounds Manager's report was received. Cllr Bayliss requested that the net at Jubilee Fields be reinstated for Manor Colts. The Grounds Manager explained the net had been taken down for hedge maintenance but is owned by the cricket club. Manor Colts have been informed of this and advised to approach the cricket club to enquire about use of the net.

Cllr Mrs Jones asked how the Friends of King's Pond is progressing. The Grounds Manager replied that Town Hall staff have been collating details of people interested in volunteering but as yet no one has come forward to take a lead on this. It was suggested that it might be worthwhile contacting the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust for their input in regard to future management. Further, it was requested that Members see a copy of any proposed interpretive map board for the Pond for commenting upon prior to it being finalised. This will follow once the Grounds Manager has met with the representative from Birdworld who has offered to fund the map.

The Town Clerk noted that further to the report a grant of £1,011 has been secured for improvement works to Windmill Hill. In addition to the budgeted amount for grounds maintenance in this financial year, this amount will secure the installation of natural log benches, wooden litter bins, weed removal and the inclusion of a small trial area of wildflower planting. Cllr Bayliss asked that the benches be situated to observe the best views out from Windmill Hill. The Grounds Manager responded that they have been placed looking out towards the lavender fields.

**NOTED**

**203 Progress Report – Persimmon Homes Chandos Lodge**

The Town Clerk's report was received. Both the Clerk and Cllr Hill are still attempting to contact the Managing Director of Persimmon to ensure this matter is progressed promptly given the protracted delays to date. Further the Clerk is awaiting a response from EHDC's legal advisor on the possible action arising from the breach of the legal agreement by Persimmon in failing to carry out the required works to the open spaces at Chandos Lodge within the agreed timeframe. Members agreed that any decision on the naming of the site would be deferred until such time as the works are complete.

**NOTED**

**204 Finance Report to 30 August 2015**

The committee received a report from the Finance and Administration Manager on income and expenditure to the 30<sup>th</sup> August 2015.

**NOTED**

**205 Miscellaneous Updates**

The committee received updates on:

(i) Flood Meadows Steering Group – Cllr Bayliss reported that the first meeting was held on the 11<sup>th</sup> August to establish the group and align its thinking and approach. The next meeting will be held on the 22<sup>nd</sup> September and will consider dog management across the site. In addition there will be a focus on the state of the paths in Flood Meadows, which Cllr Mrs Jones has already photographed on a recent site visit.

(ii) Ecological Reports – Dr. Chatfield had prepared a short report for Members in relation to Windmill Hill. This was only received at the meeting and therefore would be deferred to the next meeting for consideration.

(iii) King's Pond Management. This was raised in item 202. In addition Members suggested that more volunteers are required across the towns open spaces and maybe the Events Officer could assist in promoting this recruitment drive. Cllr Gardner also suggested approaching local supermarkets who may have volunteers available as part of their community commitment to corporate social responsibility.

**NOTED**

**206 Out of Hours Working – Grounds Maintenance Team**

The Clerk's discussion paper was received. Cllr Bayliss felt that there was no requirement for an out of hours service at this time but merely that there should be a clear understanding of who to contact if there is an on-site issue over a weekend pitch or facility hiring or a situation arises which causes a danger to the public and therefore, on a judgement call, could not wait until Monday morning

On the proposal of Cllr Dicker, seconded by Cllr Mrs Jones, it was

**RESOLVED**

- i) To approve the installation of signage across the Town Council owned open spaces to advise members of the public what to do in the event of an emergency making clear there is no out of hours service and to contact 999 or 101 as appropriate.
- ii) That contact details for the Town Clerk and Grounds Manager be passed to the Police, Leader of the Council and the Chairman of the Open Spaces Committee for use only in the event of an emergency.

Cllr Dicker commented that prior to enactment of item ii) the Staffing Sub –Committee will need to consider the underlying implications for staffing and those employees affected by the proposal.

**207 Use of Public Gardens for the Alton Climate Change Rally – Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> November**

Cllr Gardner and Cllr Mrs Jones declared a personal interest in this item. The Town Clerk's report was received. There were no questions in relation to this matter but the Clerk was asked to ensure that the rally confirms that the Public Gardens will be left tidy and any litter generated is removed.

On the proposal of Cllr Gardner, seconded by Cllr Voller, it was

**RESOLVED**

To approve the use of the Public Gardens for the Climate Change Rally on the 28<sup>th</sup> November

**208 Exclusion of the press and public**

Cllr Bayliss noted 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.

**209 Security Patrols 2015 and Locking of Public Gardens****Security Patrols**

The Finance and Administration Manager's report was received. Further to the discussions in advance of the meeting with PS Claire Winter, Members were concerned over the increasing problem of anti-social behaviour at Anstey Park, particularly near Energique, the Finimore Pavilion and across the grassed areas. Cllr Bayliss requested that in preparation for the next meeting the Town Clerk research the options for reducing the risk of anti-social behaviour by the introduction of CCTV, physical barriers, a system of Police notification by the Grounds Team so the Police can impose a 48 hour exclusion, the placement of signage to advise how to report antisocial behaviour, enforcement of by-laws and joint education patrols across the site between council appointed personnel and the Police. In addition it was advised that this be raised at the annual Anstey Park User Group meeting (to be arranged) and that Anstey residents be invited to that meeting for their comments to be considered. It was further suggested that a note in the next edition of the Altonian might be appropriate to highlight this issue.

**NOTED****Locking of the Public Gardens**

The Finance and Administration Manager's report was received. Given the evidence presented by PS Claire Winter it was felt that it would be appropriate to continue the trial of leaving the public gardens unlocked at night

On the proposal of Cllr Gardner, seconded by Cllr Voller, it was

**RESOLVED**

That the public gardens should remain unlocked overnight until the next Open Spaces meeting when a further review would be undertaken. The signage would however remain in place in case there is a need to return to night time closures at short notice.

The meeting finished at 8.30 pm.

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