

**ALTON TOWN COUNCIL
OPEN SPACES COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 24th JULY 2019
AT 7.00pm AT THE TOWN HALL, MARKET SQUARE**

Present: **Councillor** **Pam Jones** **- Chairman**
 Sharon Cullen
 Suzie Burns
 Amanda Durley
 Ginny Boxall

In attendance: **Mrs Leah Coney** **- Town Clerk**
 3 members of the public and 1 member of the press.

59 **Chairman's announcements**

The Chairman made the following announcements:

1. A hearing loop is in operation and please turn devices to the "T" position
2. To remind people that BBQs are not permitted by the public on Town Council Open Spaces
3. To remind residents that the Alton Big Dig is still continuing in the Public Gardens
4. To note the gift received from Alton New Hampshire to the Town Council, presented to the Town Clerk on her recent trip to the USA.

60 **Apologies**

Apologies were received from Cllrs Paul Crossley and Richard Platt.

61 **Minutes of Previous Meeting**

The Minutes of the previous meeting of 6th March were approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

62 **Declarations of interest and Requests for Dispensation**

The Chairman reminded members of their obligation to disclose any pecuniary interest in items on the agenda. None were declared and no requests for Dispensation received.

63 **Questions and representations from Members of the Public**

Councillor Lawrence wished to ask if the Council was able to consider leaving additional areas of Public Open Spaces "natural" given that the wildflower planting area at Windmill Hill looked so nice. The Clerk responded that in principle this is possible in some other areas and cutting regimes could be adjusted but it probably forms part of a wider conversation over environmental impact on council policy as well as carbon emissions offsetting by the Council which will be discussed at Policy and Resources next week.

64 Event Grant

On the proposal of Councillor Susie Burns, seconded by Councillor Ginny Boxall it was

RESOLVED to
Approve a grant of £300 for Victorian Cricket.

65 Grounds Team Report

The Grounds Team Report was tabled as per the report which accompanied the published Agenda papers. It was noted that there is some ragwort at Windmill Hill. The Clerk commented that the usual practice by the Council is to spray it off as the area is so large but if there are only small pockets then it may be possible to hand pull. Councillor Boxall she thought it would be possible to get volunteers to help hand pull, to prevent the use of spray.

Councillor Burns requested signage be put up in August by the path at King's Pond which will be closed off in September to give people advance warning of the path resurfacing. Councillor Burns also asked if there had been any update in respect of installing picnic benches at King's Pond. The Clerk replied that no, this was still on the *to-do* list.

NOTED

66 Update Reports

The Committee noted the update reports as per the published Agenda papers.

It was noted in respect of The Lower Field – Will Hall Farm, that the Councillor Jones and Councillor Cullen were due to attend the next liaison meeting on the 25th July but it is understood that the completion of the land transfer to the Town Council will not take place until such time as the matters with SSE over sinking the overhead cabling, have been resolved. Councillor Jones said she would also raise the issue of the condition of the large oak tree in the field which had been brought to her attention by a local resident.

Councillor Lawrence noted that the footway alongside the Lower Field alongside the main road was too narrow and could the developer make this wider. The Town Clerk noted that widening the footway was not a requirement for the developer and in any event was on highways land, not land controlled by Redrow, however, once the Lower Field became a Town Council asset this could be considered as it may be possible to move the boundary fence in a little to help widen the path.

Councillor Jones noted that she was looking to source the Trees for Life book which accompanied the trees planted at Flood Meadows, so the book could be placed on public display.

In respect of the Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) consultation currently being conducted by EHDC, Members were in agreement with the proposals put forward, which would also cover Town Council open spaces as well as District Council ones. In addition, the Clerk was asked to request two additional clauses, one to cover the maximum number of dogs under the control of one person at any one time which should not exceed four and the second to request that during the bird nesting season, dogs should be on a lead in areas such as King's Pond, where such wildlife is prevalent.

On the proposal of Councillor Sharon Cullen, seconded by Councillor Ginny Boxall it was

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

There being no other items raised, the meeting closed at 7.51 p.m.

