

MILBORNE PORT PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Open Spaces and Footpaths Committee Meeting held on Tuesday 17th April 2018 at 7pm at the Town Hall

Present: Mr P Lock (Chair), Mrs M Lock, Mr C Laughton and Mr R Douglas

Also Present: Emma Curtis – Parish Clerk

Public Question Time: There were no members of the public in attendance

1. **Apologies for Absence:** Received from Mrs A Flynn, Mr T Campbell and Tree Warden Mr Pitman
2. **Declarations of Interest:** None received
3. **Minutes of the Open Spaces and Footpaths Committee Meeting held on Tuesday 20th March 2018** were approved and signed as an accurate record of the meeting.
4. **Action List:** The Action List was reviewed in detail. The Clerk was requested to update and circulate the list following the meeting.
5. **Tree Warden Report:** In his absence the Clerk read a brief report from Mr Pitman which detailed possible trees for planting at the allotments and his plan to assess the village trees once they are in leaf.
6. **Allotments:** The Clerk reported that the allotments had recently been vandalised with two of the water troughs being broken and several other items damaged. The Clerk was requested to report this to the police and ask them to increase patrols of the area during the summer months. The Clerk confirmed that she had arranged for a contractor to attend to the repair of the water troughs. The Clerk mentioned that it would be useful to have an allotments representative, as well as herself, to report issues back to the Parish Council. It was agreed that the Clerk and Mr Lock would meet at the allotments to discuss the issue and speak with allotment holders.

The Clerk reported that two allotment tenants had not paid their rent and had ignored letters of their tenancy termination, seemingly as they had moved address and not informed the Council. The Clerk had attempted to find these tenants by visiting the address on file and trying to find their phone numbers. Both are ex-directory. These plots had now been re-let but the older tenants will not vacate the plots. The Committee agreed that the Clerk should issue an Eviction Notice and post at the allotment site as soon as possible informing the previous tenants of their breach of the tenancy agreement and that they had one month to vacate the plot before legal action would be taken.

Action – Clerk to report vandalism to the police and issue two Eviction Notices.

7. **Cemetery and Churchyard:** Mr Lock and the Clerk reported that they had met at the cemetery to discuss the extension of the ashes plots and suggested that the extension be within the 1965 section adjacent to the current section. The Committee agreed that this was the best place at this time. Mr Lock stated that he felt the extension on the cemetery which was currently not in use may be a good place to have a dog walking field and it was agreed that this would be passed to the working party looking at the dog fouling issue. The Clerk confirmed that she was going to

contact Strongvox Homes regarding the cemetery car park opposite the cemetery and the loss of car parking spaces. It was suggested that signs be erected, or the road painted showing the cemetery parking spaces. Mr Lock confirmed that the churchyard pathways had been completed and that the PCC had received quotations for the remaining pathways which had come in rather expensive.

Action – Clerk to arrange new ashes plot and write to Strongvox Homes

8. Station Copse: No report received.

9. The Clump, The Ball Court and The Grove: Mr Laughton commented that The Clump could do with some TLC in the near future. Mr Lock confirmed that the South West in Bloom judge was attending on Tuesday 10th July. Mrs Lock stated that the Gardening Club were hopefully going to prepare something in The Grove ready for the judging. Mr Laughton and Mr Lock discussed the possible use of durable concrete blocks on the verge opposite the garage and the Clerk was asked to contact Highways for their opinion.

Action – Clerk to contact Highways regarding durable blocks

10. Play Area Updates: No updates received

11. Update on Footpaths and any issues arising: Mrs Lock stated she was disappointed in the response from Somerset County Council regarding the re-routing of the footpath in the playing fields. Despite the application being submitted three years ago, SCC had confirmed that the application was low priority and at the bottom of the list. It was suggested the SCC response be sent to County Councillor William Wallace. Mr Lock suggested that the fencing used at the football pitch may be used to fence off the edge of the field in the meantime and requested that the Clerk contact the Football Club. Mr Lock commented he was dismayed to see that a previously designated footpath by the Wheathill Nursery site appeared to have been built on.

Action – Clerk to send email to County Councillor and contact Football Club regarding the fencing.

12. The date of the next Open Spaces and Footpaths Committee was confirmed as **Tuesday 19th June 2018.**