

**MINUTES OF THE OPEN SPACES COMMITTEE of THAXTED PARISH COUNCIL**  
held in the GUILDHALL on THURSDAY 18<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER 2018 at 8PM

**PRESENT:**

**Committee Members:** Cllr. W.Brazier (Chairman), Cllr. T. Frostick, Cllr. A. Wattebot, Cllr. R. Williams, Cllr. Alison Howells, Cllr. A. Frater

**Other Councillors:** Cllr. V. Knight, Cllr. J Spencer, Cllr J Miller

**Clerk:** Dena Ludford and 2 members of the Public:

**1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

None Received.

**2. DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS**

None Received

**3. PUBLIC SPEAKING TIME**

A member of the public spoke to say how well received the planters at the coach park are, the children enjoy looking at them.

**4. MINUTES**

**RESOLVED** to **APPROVE** and sign as a correct record the minutes of the Open Spaces meeting of the Committee held on 19<sup>st</sup> April 2018.

**5. GROUNDS CONTRACTOR**

- I. To receive a verbal update on matters relating to the Grounds Contract.
- II. **RESOLVED** To **AGREE** that the clerk is Authorised to review and add items to the current schedule for implementation for 2019 and beyond.
- III. **RESOLVED** To **AUTHORISE** the Clerk to proceed to engage with existing contractors to gain revised Quotes for any additional items.

**6. BEECH TREE GARDENS**

Cllr Alison Howells gave an update of the works that have been undertaken including removal of the debris which will encourage the growth of the existing aconites.  
To reuse planting from alternative areas as appropriate.

**7. WALLNUT TREE MEADOW**

- I. It is agreed that the Clerk will write to thank the current contractor for cutting the grass over a number of years.
- II. To **NOTE** the contractor has withdrawn his future services.
- III. **RESOLVED** To **AUTHORISE** the clerk to produce a maintenance schedule and to seek approved contractors and quotes, the hedges should be included in the schedule.

**8. ALLOTMENTS**

A verbal update was received in connecting to the allotments including the revision of price which remains at £39 for a full plot.

**9. TUBS**

The Vice Chairman gives a report in connection to the Tubs and if there in any additional persons willing to volunteer to water the newly placed tubs at the coach park. Cllr Victoria Knight is happy to reach out locally to see if anyone is interested in this volunteer position.

The chairman Terry Frostick reports that sadly he has personally received some rather nasty abuse in connection to the tubs as situated at the coach park and wishes to note that it is extremely rewarding to note the warm comments received from the public in this meeting.

Chairman Initial

## 10. JUBILEE GARDENS

The Chairman updates the committee on the recent changes in the gardens and that the parishioners of Thaxted seem supportive to these necessary changes.

The Chairman wishes to bring to this committee that there could be more scope for the surgery in connection to this land and parking. The chairman wishes for comments and thoughts. Cllr knight wishes to support the surgery however was hoping that this would be brought back to an open space, should there be a parking solution for the surgery up to the Bush this would be acceptable but not to the point of it taking 50% of the garden. Cllr Frater and Howells and Miller feel the same as Cllr Knight, people enjoy sitting outside as there are flats opposite and enjoy sitting on the bench and enjoying the open space. Cllr Wattebot asked for clarity on what surface will be laid upon completion of the works in connection to parking. Cllr Frostick reiterates that the area will be used for the Dr's and staff, and wishes to see an ewe hedge or similar put back. Also, to note they have now found the man hole which would be ideally left so we can access water after they have completed their works. Cllr Wattebot suggests electric charging points for cars. The Chairman closes this debate as a moot point however the choice of hedge is noted however is extremely slow growing and might wish to suggest a better hedge for this purpose.

## 11. MARGARET STREET GARDENS

To **NOTE** the recent repairs to the rear fence and removal of the debris

**RESOLVED** To approve the removal of any dead trees and bushes within this garden area in accordance to the tree survey recommendations.

It is suggested that the plants from Jubilee gardens are to be reused planting from Jubilee gardens in situ as appropriate, The Vice chairman and clerk are to liaise to complete these works with the relevant contractor.

**RESOLVED** to **AGREE** a programme of works to include ironworks and surrounding boundary areas for maintenance and repairs to proceed with the chairman of the council and the committee.

To **AUTHORISE** the clerk to proceed.

## 12. DOG FOULING

To review and approve additional bins and their location. Suggestions include; Mosscoats at the top of the cycle track and one at the top of Burns Road opposite the footpath on the Sampford Road. And to agree the associated costs with these placements and ongoing emptying in collaboration with Uttlesford District Council. Cllr Steward asked if there was any merit in collaborating with others such as the Thaxted society and Thaxted on line in supporting a campaign in tidying up Thaxted.

**RESOLVED** To **AGREE** to authorise the clerk to proceed in collaboration with the chairman of the committee to agree the situation of the bins required.

## 13. UTTLESFORD SPORT AND RECREATION STRATEGY

To **NOTE** that the Open Spaces Chairman has met with Knight, Kavanagh & Page and to receive a verbal report from the chairman which included the current facilities and any future suggestions.

## 14. TREES

To **NOTE** that the Tree Survey has now been undertaken for the sum of £1000 plus VAT.

To receive a verbal update with any ongoing and future tree works as identified by the report.

**RESOLVED** To **AUTHORISE** the clerk to carry out any urgent work from the report and to schedule in any non-urgent work with any future Approved contractors.

Cllr Frater asked if there were any plans to replace the reported dead trees, the response from the chairman is to bring this matter back to the open spaces committee with consideration taken as to where the ideal place might be. Cllr Frater asks is Welly boot wood should be included in this report in the future. The Chairman suggests that a plaque be created at the wishes of the previous owners that can be sited at this area.

## 15. RECREATION GROUND

**RESOLVED** To **AGREE** the required works to the northern hedge on the recreation ground in accordance with good husbandry and in compliance with the new lease agreement. To repair the neighboring fence accordingly. Cllr Frostick gives a verbal report on this and support the Resolution; Cllr knight support this resolution.

**RESOLVED** To arrange clearance of the Ditch & Grid adjacent to Guelphs lane.

Chairman Initial

To arrange to have the hedge adjacent to Rochelle Close recut in accordance with previous works  
**RESOLVED** to **AUTHORISE** the clerk to engage with approved contractors for the completion of these works and to future place these items on the yearly maintenance contractor.

**16. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> April 2019

Closed 9:25

Chairman Signature

Date:

Chairman Initial