



The notes from the meeting of the Open Spaces Project Group held in the back room of the Portland Inn, Gurnard on Wednesday 27 January 2016 at 7.00pm.

PRESENT: Councillor: McKean

Community Representatives: Martin Bilson (Chair), Georgina Austin, Jenny Schofield, Carol McKerracher, Jeremy Murton, Steve and Terry Benstead.

31 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Fuller and Ben Cooke

32 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

There were no declarations of interest received.

33 MEETING NOTES

The notes of the meeting held on 2 December 2016 were approved and signed by the chairman.

34 GREEN GYM

The volunteers from the Green Gym have been booked for 24/02/16 and will start at 10am. They will be clearing the site around the orchard and pond areas plus helping to repair the fence. An article by the Parish Clerk in the Gurnard News has mentioned this and apologised to residents in advance for the smoke from the bonfires. She will advise both the Fire Brigade and Environmental Health. No padlock key has been passed over from IW Council which locked the area around the pond. It will be necessary to cut the existing chain, but if the pond is found to be in an unsafe condition, the area must be locked again for Health and Safety purposes. It was:

RECOMMENDED:

- 1) That 10 new posts and staples are purchased to a value of £50.00**
- 2) That a new chain and padlock are purchased to a value of £20.00**

35 REMAINING BUDGET FROM 2015/16

The clerk advised that there is £2,337.33 left in the budget allocated by the Parish Council, which was provided for grass and hedge cutting. Mr. Terry Butchers has cut the grass and paid for the external hedge cutting (to protect the highway), so the budget is underspent. The clerk advised that any balance left at the end of the financial year will be returned to Parish Council balances unless specific amounts are requested to be "ring fenced" by the group. If the grant application is unsuccessful, priorities for funds will have to be listed for the Parish Council to consider.

36 TREE PLANTING

Martin advised that of the 200 trees which were delivered, so far he has managed to plant 60 of them. Martin has also planted an oak which was removed from another site that he was working on, which can be used as memorial tree, therefore no cost has been involved. The Scout Group will be providing a brass plaque to mount on a board which has been donated by a resident. The wording will be sought from the families before manufacture. A path needs to be mowed for access to the potential picnic

GURNARD PARISH COUNCIL

area, the orchard and growing areas. Discussion took place about buying or hiring a mower for the site, but after discussion, it was decided that:

ACTION: The clerk will obtain quotations for short mowing the areas mentioned.

37 ORCHARD IDENTIFICATION

The clerk made some laminated labels but when they were taken down to the site, most of the previous labels were missing. Deacons Nursery will be contacted again as they have not responded to previous telephone calls or emails. It may be necessary to start the identification process again this year, taking pictures of the blossom, plus the fruit to enable identification. The pictures could then be emailed to establishments like Kew Gardens.

38 COMMUNITY GROWING SCHEME UPDATE

One session of rotivating has been completed, but it will need another. The ground is very stony which is not good for growing vegetables. It was suggested that raised beds with lots of compost and manure dug in would help. A shed for tools etc. has been identified as a priority purchase and one quotation supplied by Martin. As this was in excess of £500.00, the clerk advised that to conform to Financial Regulations, another quotation must be obtained for comparisons purposes.

ACTION:

- 1) Steve and Jeremy will locate possible scaffold boards and costs for the next meeting.
- 2) The Scouts will be asked to help make the raised beds and possible composting areas.
- 3) Martin will provide another quotation for an 8ft by 10ft shed.

This part of the plan item will be a main agenda item as the next meeting.

39 PRIORITIES FOR FUNDING FORM THE PARISH COUNCIL 2016/17

A budget of £3,000 has been set aside in the 2016/17 budget to support the project for hedge and grass cutting, if Mr. Butchers is unable to provide this service free of charge as he has done this year. If the grant application is unsuccessful, a list of priorities will have to be drawn up.

40 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

It was agreed that the date of the next meeting will be 24 February 2016 at 7pm, at The Portland.

The meeting closed at 8.15 pm

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Chairman