

NUTHURST PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Open Spaces & General Maintenance Committee meeting, held on 19th June 2019 at 8.41pm at Mannings Heath Village Hall, Mannings Heath

Present: Cllr D Cotton
Cllr J Chaytor
Cllr R Carmichael
Cllr O Hydes
Cllr D Livingstone
Cllr J Mercer

The Clerk to the Parish Council, Sarah Hall and nine members of the public attended the meeting.

OS001-19/20 APPOINT THE CHAIRMAN OF THE OPEN SPACES & GENERAL MAINTENANCE COMMITTEE

It was **RESOLVED** that Cllr J Mercer be elected Chairman of the Open Spaces & General Maintenance Committee for the 2019/20 municipal year.
PROPOSED by Cllr D Livingstone and **SECONDED** by Cllr D Cotton.

OS002-19/20 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

It was **RESOLVED** that apologies for absence from Cllr S Turner be **APPROVED**.

OS003-19/20 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest, as defined under the Localism Act 2011 and the Parish Councils Code of Conduct, were made.

OS004-19/209 APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

It was **RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the [Mannings Heath Village Green Committee](#) held on 19th September 2018 be confirmed as a true correct record and be signed by the Chairman of the Open Spaces & General Maintenance Committee.

OS005-19/20 TERMS OF REFERENCE

It was **RESOLVED** to **REVIEW** the updated [Open Spaces & General Maintenance Committee Terms of Reference](#) at the next Committee meeting.

OS006-19/20 PUBLIC SESSION

A member of the public asked for clarification over the ownership of an Oak tree on the boundary of the village green and Saddlers Farm and another member of the public asked if the 'tree canopy' of the large Horse Chestnut in the children's play area could be reduced. The Clerk will look into the matter of ownership and highlight the Horse Chestnut tree when the next tree survey is carried out.

Members of the public also spoke of their concerns about the suggestion of a skate park on the village green, children playing in the lane adjacent to the village green and the uneven surface in the children's play area.

The Chairman of the Open Spaces and General Maintenance Committee explained that the committee had been set up to deal with some of the issues which had recently been highlighted, these included;

- Providing facilities for older children
- Updating the children's play area
- Updating the village green bylaws
- Developers not paying attention to the conditions set out in the planning application.
- Making open spaces more interesting

OS007-19/20 OPEN SPACES

It was **RESOLVED** to **NOTE** the details of the [open spaces in the Parish](#) and for the committee to look into promoting the use of the open spaces, especially the area behind Woodlands Walk.

OS008-19/20 FUTURE PROJECTS

- i) Providing Facilities for older children
Look into the possibility of children using the open space behind Woodlands Walk to play ball games, the area is owned by HDC and further communication with HDC's Parks Department will be required.
- ii) Updating the children's play area
The ongoing maintenance of some of the existing equipment is quite costly. Look into possibly of updating the area with a 'Trim Trail', look into grant funding and provisions in the annual budget.
- iii) Updating the village green byelaws
The byelaws were adopted from HDC 30 years ago, these now need to be updated. Advice needs to be sought on the legality of changing the byelaws.
- iv) Monks Gate Pond
The developers at Coolhurst Close have not adhered to the conditions of the planning consent, installing up and down lighting (disturbing the bats) and are not maintaining the pond satisfactorily (putting the Great Crested Newts at risk). The ongoing maintenance of the area needs to be considered.
- v) Making Open Spaces more interesting
The Parish Council will continue arranging for open spaces in the Parish to remain uncut (encouraging wildlife to prosper), planting bulbs, shrubs and trees.

OS009-19/20 MANNINGS HEATH VILLAGE GREEN

- i) Events on Mannings Heath Village Green
Permission for a small pony party (under the Chestnut trees) has been granted and a licence and invoice will be raised in due course. The Parish Councils insurance company have advised that consideration needs to be given to the liability of costs if an event is cancelled.
- ii) Maintenance of the children's playground
The climbing frame and safety barriers require painting, these projects could be undertaken on by the General Maintenance volunteers. The uneven surface will be addressed when the Cricket Club order further topsoil and a working party will be arranged.
- iii) Informal community use of the green
There was a suggestion that collapsible goal posts could possibly be stored in the Cricket Clubs facilities. Mr K Barnes advised that the proposal would need to be discussed by the Cricket Club Committee.

- iv) Treatment of the Chafer Beetles
The treatment of the Chafer Beetles will start towards the end of September, the nematode worms will then be applied once the grubs have hatched.

To date the Cricket Club have removed the dead / loose / dug up grass and laid topsoil and seed which has germinated and is growing well with a few exceptions which we will be reseeded.

OS010-19/20 GENERAL MAINTENANCE OF PARISH ASSETS

Working parties will be arranged to assist with the general maintenance of the Parish Assets. These include the maintenance and cleaning of the street lighting, bus shelters, finger posts, village gateways, benches, millennium signs etc

OS011-19/20 MINOR MATTERS RAISED BY COUNCILLORS TO BE REFERRED TO ON THE NEXT AGENDA

It was **RESOLVED** to **NOTE** that the Councillors did not request for any items to be included on the next Planning Committee agenda.

The meeting closed at 9.35pm

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Chairman of the Open Spaces & General Maintenance Committee

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Date