

Minutes of the **OPEN SPACES COMMITTEE** held at Pembury Parish Council offices on **Monday 27 February 2023** at 3pm.



Councillors Present:

Cllr P Gillan (Chair)
Cllr K Brooks
Cllr M Weaver

Cllr C Snow (Vice-Chair)
Cllr J Webster

Apologies:

Cllr A Birch

Officers present:

Helen Munro (Clerk)
Yvette Allen (Deputy Clerk)

Also present:

One resident

22/431. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.** Apologies were received from Cllr Birch. The reasons given were accepted.

22/432. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.** There were no declarations of interest.

22/433. **MINUTES.** The minutes from the committee meeting held on Monday 19 December 2022 were approved and signed by the Chair as an accurate record.

22/434. **CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS.** There were none.

22/435. **CLERK'S REPORT.** The following report was **noted**:

- a. Publicising the table tennis tables. This has been included in the spring edition of the Pembury Village News.
- b. Tree work following tree survey. Work has been split between the two financial years and was scheduled in two phases. The second phase is scheduled in week commencing 3 April 2023.
- c. Allotments. Research on communal composting, shredder and the condition of plots for new tenants is on-going.

The Climate & Environmental Action Working Group discussed communal composting and had concerns about how this would be managed on a day to day basis. The possibility of unsuitable material being put on the compost was high. There was concern that management of this would fall to the grounds staff.

- d. War Memorial Clean and Paint. The application for grant funding from TWBC UKSP Community grant fund has been successful.

Advice was received from Burslems about painting the lettering on the plaques and they strongly recommend this is not undertaken.

The meeting was adjourned at 3.07pm.

- 22/436. **OPEN SESSION.** The resident spoke about the lack of trees in The Coppice and asked if some could be planted. Clarification about ownership of land opposite Parish Council land would be sought.

The meeting was re-convened at 3.14pm.

- 22/437. **BURIALS.**

- a. It was **RESOLVED** to approve a refund for two graves purchased in 2019 as the family had moved out of the village.
- b. It was **RESOLVED** to approve revised Burial Ground rules with two amendments.

- 22/438. **TENNIS COURTS.**

- a. Following advice, it was **RESOLVED** not to go ahead with turning the courts round by 90 degrees.
- b. Specification for tennis court refurbishment was agreed and it was **RESOLVED** to appoint Sovereign Sports to carry out the work at a cost of £5,935.00.

- 22/439. **FRUIT TREE AVENUE.**

- a. An update from the site meeting was noted.
- b. It was **RESOLVED** to purchase less trees than had been originally planned and to space them at 4m intervals along one side of the designated area. There was potential to purchase further trees in the future.
- c. Further work was to be carried out to determine the number of trees needed and it was **RESOLVED** to delegate authority to the Clerk, in conjunction with the Chair and Vice Chair, to order the appropriate amount. A higher percentage of apple and pear trees rather than quince and crab apple trees was proposed.
- d. It was **RESOLVED** to pursue the grant funding application.

- 22/440. **LOWER GREEN RECREATION GROUND.** A request for 'no cycling' signs to be installed in the Recreation Ground was noted and the need for signage be monitored.

22/441. **DOG BINS.**

- a. The cost of dog bin emptying was noted. Further work would be carried out on the possibility of using dual purpose litter and dog waste bins.
- b. It was noted that some areas of the village had a lack of any bins and further work would be carried out on this.

22/442. **FLORAL DISPLAYS.** As a grant had been received to install water butts and rainwater would soon be harvested, it was agreed to consider extending the hanging basket display along the High Street from Woodsgate Corner to Sunhill Court subject to budget. Lamp columns would need to be load tested and this would be investigated. Flowers would be purchased for hanging baskets around the village green with brighter colour flowers.

22/443. **LITTER.** More regular litter picks in the village were suggested and residents would be encouraged to do this independently through social media posts. A date for the Annual Community Litter Pick to be agreed.

22/444. **TREES.**

- a. It was **RESOLVED** to approve work to a diseased silver birch tree in Lower Green Recreation Ground at a cost of £1,194 + VAT.
- b. Following a request, it was agreed to I consider planting trees on Parish Council land in The Coppice.

22/445. **WAR MEMORIAL.** A contractor for cleaning the War Memorial had been appointed and a date was awaited. It was **RESOLVED** to delegate finding a contractor to re-point the paving slabs around the war memorial to the Clerk. This work to be funded from the grant.

Cleaning of the stone plaque in front of the War Memorial would be put on a future agenda.

22/446. **RISKS.** No new risks had been identified.

22/447. **QUESTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS OR AGENDA ITEMS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS.** There were none.

22/448. **MEETING DATES.** The date of **26 June 2023** for the next Open Spaces meeting was noted.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 4.50pm.

Signed: _____ Date: _____
Chairman

