

ST STEPHEN PARISH COUNCIL

Bricket Wood, Chiswell Green and Park Street



**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF
THE TREES & WOODLAND MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE (2)
HELD AT THE
PARISH CENTRE, STATION ROAD, BRICKET WOOD, ST. ALBANS, HERTS
ON 1 MAY 2014 AT 10.30 am**

Present: Cllr Bell (Chair), Cllr Hurford, Cllr Jones, & Cllr Whittaker (part.)
In attendance: Carol Hardy (Assistant Clerk) Dave Williams (Senior Groundsman)
Mike Carter (Friends of Hanstead Wood)

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

None.

2. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

There were none.

3. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 30 OCTOBER 2013

RESOLVED: Proposed: Cllr Jones Seconded: Cllr Hurford **Motion Carried**
That the minutes be accepted as a true record.
Votes in favour: unanimous

4. NOTIFICATION OF OTHER BUSINESS

There was none.

5. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There was none.

6. MANAGEMENT: REPORTS & PLANNING

6.1 Blackgreen Wood

a) English Woodland Grant Scheme application

The grant application has been successful and will commence in April 2014.

b) Work schedule for Spring/Summer 2014

This would involve continuing with the coppicing and Holly removal. The Hornbeam coppicing that took place four years ago is now beautiful and patches of Bluebells are now appearing. The area is lovely and light and green.

c) Friends of Hanstead Wood in Blackgreen Wood report

Mike Carter commented that some residents still felt that the wood was not welcoming and it may be an idea to define a footpath from the new Park Street entrance to link with existing footpath at the Bricket Wood end. A few directional signs and a couple of benches along the route may assist with the use. Members agreed that the new path would benefit from advertising maybe with leaflets and in the parish magazine.

d) Park Street Lane bridge and footpath update

Cllr Whittaker thanked all concerned with protracted effort to gain official access to this part of the wood. The work to the tarmac footpath and bridge was complete and the bridge is already well used. The Chairman suggested that a sign was placed on the bridge that recognised Lafarge for their grant assistance. Mr Williams stated that he remained concerned about a blind spot at this point in the road and the fact that a safety barrier had not been installed. The Clerk commented the safety audit carried out by Ringway had not identified the need for a safety barrier. The Clerk went on to say that an official opening was required and advertising to make the claim for the grant funding. It was suggested that the opening be aimed for the beginning of June. Cllr Hurford asked that balloons were not used at the opening as she felt that they did not fit in with the rural environment and what was being promoted.

e) **Woodland Open Day**

The open day is set for 13th September 2014. CMS are not able to attend in an official capacity but Mark and Isobel may be able to attend as volunteers but will require an invitation

Cllr Bell agreed to speak to the Bricket Wood Social Club about parking provision.

Dave Williams agreed to keep contact with Rob Perry regarding the mobile saw mill and logging horses.

Dave Williams also to speak with Mark Carter regarding woodland craft demonstrations.

Cllr Hurford suggested that there should be a parish stand with leaflets.

Cllr Jones suggested that Mr Pearson may have photographs of the wood as it was many years ago which would be interesting for visitors.

RESOLVED: Proposed: Cllr Hurford Seconded: Cllr Jones **Motion Carried**
That the sum of £5000 be set aside as the budget to run the event.
Votes in favour: unanimous

At this point Cllr Whittaker left the meeting.

6.2 **St Julian's Wood**

a) **English Woodland Grant Scheme application**

The application has been successful.

b) **Work schedule for Spring/Summer 2014**

Some trees will be pollarded. The coppice will be reinstated and some coppicing will take place near to the edge of the wood to improve the light. A contractor may be used for some of the work but most will take place in house.

c) **Friends of St Julian's Wood report**

Have been laying brash around footpaths to channel the users along the paths. This has worked particularly well in one location and Bluebells are regenerating on the formerly trodden down areas. Bluebell seed collected last year was spread in the copse by the car park. Hedge laying along the allotment boundary has proved successful and about 100 saplings have been planted on the edge of S Julian's Wood.

At this point Juliet Pienaar Clerk joined the meeting.

6.3 **St Julian's Meadow**

a) Natural England Entry Level Stewardship Scheme grant had been successful albeit much reduced in funds to around £330 per year. Inclusion in the five year scheme meant that the meadow had to be cut and carted and not just flailed and left. Cut and cart reduced the fertility of the area and encouraged wild flower production. Buffer strips would also be introduced to soften the edge between the wood and the meadow and encourage wildlife.

b) **Meadow cut and cart or flail 2014 harvest**

Members agreed to accept the lower quotation for cut and cart.

RESOLVED: Proposed: Cllr Jones Seconded: Cllr Hurford **Motion Carried**
That the lower quotation for cut and cart at £1200 be accepted.
Votes in favour: unanimous

It was suggested due to the much reduced grant funding, that in 2015 hay could be sold to generate income for the parish if the Ragwort was removed from it. Mr Williams suggested that a selective weed killer was used as a spot treatment, Ragwort being a notifiable weed. Cllr Hurford stated that the St Julian's volunteers could help out by pulling the Ragwort.

At this point Juliet Pienaar left the meeting.

6.4 **Park Street Woodland Embankment**

a) **Work Schedule for Spring/Summer 2014**

No major work has been undertaken. The Ground Staff are monitoring the tree overhang to the

houses in Branch Road. The re-growth on the Hawthorn will need maintenance as it is overhanging the school playground and this work would be programmed into the schedule.

6.5 Trees & hedging on Parish land

a) Trees at the front of Greenwood Park, Tippendell Lane

The work to remove the trees has been completed. Cllr Hurford asked whether the remaining tree stumps could be removed. Mr Williams explained that the cost of stump grinding was expensive and would have exceeded the budget set aside for the work. Cllr Hurford then suggested that the stumps could make an interesting art project for local school children.

b) Hedging in North Close

This work has also been completed and a view of St Albans Abbey could now be glimpsed.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 12.15pm.

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The Parish Office may be contacted by telephone, email, fax or post.

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NOTE: These minutes are to be considered as 'draft' until the Committee has approved them.