

ST STEPHEN PARISH COUNCIL

Bricket Wood, Chiswell Green and Park Street



**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF
THE TREES & WOODLAND MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE (4)
HELD AT THE
PARISH CENTRE, STATION ROAD, BRICKET WOOD, ST. ALBANS, HERTS
ON 24 SEPTEMBER 2015 AT 10.30 am**

Present: Cllr Bell (Chair), Cllr Getley & Cllr Hurford
In attendance: Carol Hardy (Deputy Clerk) Dave Williams (Senior Grounds man)
Mike Carter (Friends of Hanstead Wood)

1. ELECTION OF THE CHAIRMAN

RESOLVED: Proposed: Cllr Hurford Seconded: Cllr Getley *Motion Carried*
That Cllr Bell is elected as Chairman.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllr Whittaker.

3. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

There were none.

4. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 23 APRIL 2015

The meeting of 23 April 2015 was inquorate. An informal meeting was held and notes taken.

5. NOTIFICATION OF OTHER BUSINESS

Cllr Getley asked to update Members about How Wood.

6. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There was none.

7. MANAGEMENT: REPORTS & PLANNING

7.1 Blackgreen Wood

a) Work Schedule for Autumn/Winter 2015/2016

Mr Williams produced a report to which he referred. The Autumn/Winter 2015 work would involve felling between 80 –100 trees within the compartment located nearest to the M25 motorway bridge at Lye Lane. Mr Williams was hopeful that the contractor would accept the felled trees as payment. Members asked that the tree felling was well advertised in advance of the work. They agreed to retain the woodland management budget figure of £2000.

The Chairman then moved to item 8

8. OTHER BUSINESS

Cllr Getley stated that he was following up the How Wood management plan with Nick Sherriff at St Albans District Council.

The Chairman then returned to item 7.1. b

7.1 b) Friends of Hanstead Wood in Blackgreen Wood report

Mike Carter reported that the next work day would be in December. He went on to say that the cut Holly was re-growing vigorously and asked whether it could be removed permanently. Mr Williams stated that there had been limited success with poisoning and stump grinding would be the way forward. It was also suggested that the brash was redistributed around the Park Street Lane entrance to make it more welcoming.

RESOLVED: Proposed: Cllr Hurford Seconded: Cllr Getley *Motion Carried*
That £800 is set aside from the Blackgreen Wood management budget for stump grinding of the Holly.

c) Installation of the bench

The Chairman stated that a bench had been installed at the Park Street entrance to the wood.

d) Open Day Event 2017

RESOLVED: Proposed: Cllr Bell Seconded: Cllr Hurford *Motion Carried*
That the event is moved to 2017 so as not to coincide with the festival.

7.2 Greenwood Park

a) Poplar trees

RESOLVED: Proposed: Cllr Getley Seconded: Cllr Hurford *Motion Carried*
That the deadwood is removed within a budget of £500, funding to be used from the St Julian's Management Plan budget.
Request a 2016/2017 budget of £8000 to fell the Poplars and replace with specimen trees.

At this point in the meeting, Cllr Getley stated that he had limited time to remain at the meeting which would leave the meeting inquorate. The Chairman moved to the most urgent items.

b) Other trees

Not discussed.

7.3 St Julian's Wood

a) Work Schedule for Autumn/Winter 2015/2016

Mr Williams stated that the hedge running along the A414 required topping before it became too large for the equipment to cut.

RESOLVED: Proposed: Cllr Hurford Seconded: Cllr Getley *Motion Carried*
That £450 is set aside from the St Julian's Management Plan budget to hire a contractor to cut the hedge.

b) Friends of St Julian's Wood Report

Not discussed.

7.4 Greenwood Park Meadow

a) Ragwort Control

Not discussed.

b) Meadow Cut

RESOLVED: Proposed: Cllr Bell Seconded: Cllr Hurford *Motion Carried*
To accept the quotation of £1500 to cut and cart the hay on the meadow.

7.5 Park Street Woodland Embankment

a) Urgent Tree Felling

Urgent work was required to a dangerous tree on the embankment close to the Network Rail line. As a consequence of the closeness to the line, Network Rail would only sanction the work during night time hours.

RESOLVED: Proposed: Cllr Bell Seconded: Cllr Hurford *Motion Carried*
The quotation of £1995 was accepted. Funds to be requested from the working balance.

RESOLVED: Proposed: Cllr Bell Seconded: Cllr Hurford *Motion Carried*
That the tree canopy overhanging the fitness and play equipment is reduced within the budget of £400.

RESOLVED: Proposed: Cllr Bell Seconded: Cllr Getley *Motion Carried*
That the Park Street Recreation Ground ring fenced funds of £200 are
reallocated to the Park Street embankment tree safety work budget.

b) Work schedule for Autumn/Winter 2015/2016

Not discussed.

At this point Cllr Getley left the meeting and the meeting could not continue as it was inquorate.

8. OTHER BUSINESS

Not discussed.

Meeting closed at 11.45am

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