

# ST STEPHEN PARISH COUNCIL

Bricket Wood, Chiswell Green and Park Street



**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF  
THE TREES & WOODLAND MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE (3)  
HELD AT THE  
PARISH CENTRE, STATION ROAD, BRICKET WOOD, ST. ALBANS, HERTS  
ON 24 MARCH 2016 AT 10.30 am**

**Present:** Cllr Bell (Chair), Cllr Hurford & Cllr Freeman  
**In attendance:** Carol Hardy (Deputy Clerk) Dave Williams (Senior Grounds man)

**1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from Cllr Getley, Cllr Kerry, Cllr Whittaker & Mike Carter.

**2. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS**

There were none.

**3. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 10 DECEMBER 2015**

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

**4. NOTIFICATION OF OTHER BUSINESS**

None.

**5. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

There was none.

**6. MANAGEMENT: REPORTS & PLANNING**

**6.1 Blackgreen Wood**

**a) Work Schedule for Spring/Summer 2016**

The Chairman stated he was disappointed with the large amount of tree felling that had taken place recently preferring a more discreet management plan. He went on to say that members of the public had made adverse comments to him about the work. Mr Williams agreed that the impact was dramatic but stated that the work carried out was in line with the management plan and that we should not shy away from the original plan if the wood is to be regenerated. He went on to explain that such management is conservation for the future and will make the wood diverse. The Chairman was also disappointed at the loss of the Hornbeams that flanked Lye Lane. Mr Williams confirmed that the majority of the trees had a 45% lean into the road, had a lot of deadwood and a good number were rotting at the base.

The work schedule for the spring summer would consist of litter picking and any urgent work.

**b) Tree Survey report**

Mr Williams stated that all dead and dangerous trees had been dealt with within budget including a few trees that were not identified within the report. He went on to say that a further three days work with a climber will be required next season.

**c) Friends of Hanstead Wood in Blackgreen Wood**

Mr Carter had given his apologies.

**d) Open Day Event 2017**

Cllr Freeman suggested exploring options to sell the timber and that maybe it could be cut to order with the onsite mill and that external mills may be interested in buying some.

The Clerk suggested that the parish stand at the 2016 festival could advertise timber for sale that could be viewed in the yard, with smaller pieces priced up at the stand. It was also suggested that timber was advertised on the website.

## 6.2 Greenwood Park

### a) Tree Survey report

Mr Williams stated that all work has been carried out within the available budget.

### b) Poplar trees

Mr Williams reported that the Poplars along the front boundary of Greenwood Park had been dead wooded but that some are leaning toward the road and will continue to drop branches. The Silver Birch trees are sandwiched between the Poplars and have stunted growth and a short life. It was agreed to schedule removal of this line of trees into the autumn/winter work schedule and replace the trees with other species located within the fenced kickabout area. The advantage of relocating the trees to this area would be to offer shade to users. Mr Williams agreed to investigate replacement trees and provide a cost at the next meeting.

### c) Other trees

Nothing to report.

## 6.3 St Julian's Wood

### a) Work schedule for Spring/Summer 2016

Volunteers have been working in the wood. Brash hedging was required to protect the bluebells and paths were in need of some more woodchip. Mr Williams stated that a member of the public had donated a bat box which would be put up along with additional bird boxes.

### b) Tree Survey report

Mr Williams stated that all work has been carried out within the available budget.

### c) Friends of St Julians Wood report

The Chairman reported that volunteers have carried out around twenty metres of hedge laying which was a difficult task due to the size of the stems. This in turn has exposed some rubbish which will require removal. Concrete bird boxes are required as the wooden ones are being eaten by squirrels. Brash has been laid and 'camps' within the wood have been dismantled.

Mr Williams said that he would provide woodchip to relay the paths.

## 6.4 Greenwood Park Meadow

### a) Ragwort control/report

The Chairman reported that the volunteer group had pulled some ragwort during 2015 and would spend some time this year doing the same.

### b) Meadow Cut 2016

**RESOLVED:** Proposed: Cllr Freeman Seconded: Cllr Hurford *Motion Carried*  
That the 2016 meadow cut and cart is agreed within a budget of £1500

### c) Hedge cutting

Mr Williams stated that the hedge cutting would take place in the next couple of weeks.

## 6.5 Park Street woodland embankment

### a) Urgent tree felling

This work has been carried out.

### b) Tree canopy felling over the fitness/play equipment

Mr Williams stated that the trees had been dead wooded. The tree surgeon had advised that the Lime trees were pollarded. Mr Williams was asked to provide a quotation for the work.

### c) Tree Survey report

Mr Williams stated that all safety work had been carried out within the available budget.

### d) Work schedule for Spring/Summer 2016

Mr Williams stated that all work would be reactive.

## 7. BUTTERFLY WORLD

### a) Feature items of architectural interest

The Clerk suggested that as Butterfly World would not be reopening, that Members may wish to consider items such as the large leafcutter ant and spider and the relocation of these items to Greenwood Park. It was suggested that the owners may wish to donate them and other items from the site which could be useful or of interest to park users.

The Chairman agreed to contact the owners of the site and Cllr Freeman suggested that a meeting may be useful.

**8. OTHER BUSINESS**

None.

Meeting closed at 11.50am

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