

# ST STEPHEN PARISH COUNCIL

Bricket Wood, Chiswell Green and Park Street



**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF  
THE TREES & WOODLAND MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE (3)  
INCORPORATING THE PARISH ENVIRONMENTAL PLAN GROUP (PELG)  
HELD AT THE  
PARISH CENTRE, STATION ROAD, BRICKET WOOD, ST. ALBANS, HERTS  
ON 23 MARCH 2017 AT 10.30 am**

**Present:** Cllr Bell (Chair), Cllr Hurford, Cllr Parker & Cllr Whittaker  
**In attendance:** Carol Hardy (Deputy Clerk) Mike Carter (Friends of Hanstead Wood/PELG)  
Dianah Ellis (PELG) & Dave Williams (Senior Grounds man)

**1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

None.

**2. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS**

None.

**3. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON DECEMBER 2016**

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

**4. NOTIFICATION OF OTHER BUSINESS**

None.

**5. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

None.

**6. PARISH ENVIRONMENTAL LIAISON GROUP: REPORTS & PLANNING**

The Chairman welcomed the PELG representatives to the meeting.

**6.1 Bricket Wood Common**

**(a) Update**

The Chairman stated that there were now two management plans for the common; one produced by St Albans District Council and one by the landowner, the Hon. Henry Holland Hibbert. Mr Holland Hibbert would be responsible for the felling and regeneration of the trees and the District Council would be responsible for everything else, including the heathland and cattle. He went on to say that this was an unsatisfactory situation as the residents contributed £28000 towards the upkeep of the common. Cllr Whittaker asked how the £28000 was spent. The Chairman explained that the information was held by SADC but payments were made to the Councils contractor John O'Connor and there were administrative charges etc.

A Member asked how and when the landowner had been allowed to take over the woodland management. It was agreed that he had been able to do this as owner. Members suggested that SADC should extract themselves from the agreement and allow the landowner to take on the responsibility and costs for maintenance of the Common. Mike Carter wanted to know the ramifications of this action would be. The Clerk explained that the land was common land where users had the 'right to roam'. The Clerk was asked to investigate whether SADC would be able to extract themselves from the contract with the landowner.

**6.1 Hanstead Wood**

**(b) Update**

Mike Carter informed Members that the site was due to be sold within the next few months and once the sale was completed, negotiation regarding Hanstead Wood would commence. He went on to say that recent volunteer days had concentrated on keeping the wood tidy. Dianah Ellis

stated that the woodland should have designation as a green space within the Neighbourhood Plan.

Members noted that the Smug Oak Lane entrance had been reopened following the difficulties of HGV's accessing Drop Lane.

**6.1 How Wood**

- (c) Cllr Whittaker mentioned that there had been some tree clearance on the access route that had worried some residents. She went on to say that residents had now been given a copy the SADC management plan.

**7. MANAGEMENT: REPORTS & PLANNING**

**7.1 Blackgreen Wood**

**a) Work Schedule for Spring/Summer 2017**

The Chairman confirmed a volunteer day on Saturday 8th April where Holly would be cut back from the Park Street Lane entrance. Holly brash would also be placed against the rear boundary fence at 292 Park Street Lane to prevent access into the woodland.

Mr Williams said that a claim had been made of the English Woodland Grant Scheme for 30 bird boxes of mixed size at 10 boxes per hectare.

**7.2 Greenwood Park**

**a) Work Schedule for Spring/Summer 2017**

The Chairman confirmed the volunteer day for 25 March. This group would be placing brash around the Bluebells to prevent damage by walkers. He went on say that he also had some small donated Oak/Lime/Yew trees to plant. It was agreed that the Lime and Yew would be planted close to the boundary with Killigrew School.

Dianah Ellis asked whether it would be possible to dedicate an area of land for the planting of memorial trees. Mr Williams was asked to investigate suitable areas and the negatives and positives for discussion at the next meeting.

**b) Poplar, Ash and Birch trees to front boundary**

Members noted that the independent tree survey was awaited.

**c) Other trees and hedging**

Mr Williams reported that the hedge laying along the cycle path had been completed. The hedge along the old M10 boundary had proved to be beyond the reach of the equipment the contractor brought in to reduce the height. The hedge had instead been breasted and tidied, which will thicken it up. If it is to be topped now it would have to be by other mechanical means. Members noted the agenda notes regarding the Maple tree to the side of the Community Centre.

**d) Open day event 2017**

Members noted the agenda notes. The Chairman stated that he was keen that the event went ahead during this year. Cllr Hurford expressed concern that the Events Committee could not take responsibility for the organisation at short notice, whilst the Clerk stated that her work load would not allow her to take on anything else. The Chairman agreed to take on the organisation with help from the committee. He went on to say that he had found someone willing to give a scything demonstration, and CMS would be able to carry out besom broom and wood sawing demonstrations. Mr Williams suggested an introduction to woodland and meadow management but this would require knowledgeable people on site.

Members agreed that the date of the event would be Saturday 12th August 2017.

**7.3 St Julian's Wood**

**a) Work schedule for Spring/Summer 2017**

Mr Williams stated that work would consist of reactive work, clearance around the saplings and brash work. Wood chippings would be laid on the paths if time allowed.

**b) Friends of St Julian's Wood Report**

As noted above at 7.3 (a)

**7.4 Greenwood Park Meadow**

**a) Work schedule for Spring/Summer 2017**

Mr Williams stated that only reactive work would be carried out although the hay cut will be carried out in August and prior to that, any large areas of Ragwort would be topped to prevent it seeding.

**b) Ragwort control**

As 7.4 (a) above.

**c) Meadow Cut 2017**

As 7.4 (a) above. The 2016 cost of cutting the meadow was £1500. The Clerk stated she was waiting for a quotation for 2017.

**d) Hedge cutting**

Discussed under 7.2 (c).

**7.5 Park Street Woodland Embankment**

**a) Work Schedule for Spring/Summer 2017**

Mr Williams reported that all work would be reactive.

**7.6 Park Street Recreation Ground**

**a) Work Schedule Spring/Summer 2017**

Mr Williams reported that all work would be reactive.

**b) Lime Tree Pollarding**

Mr Williams reported that the Lime trees over the adult fitness equipment had been pollarded and the work was complete.

**8. OTHER BUSINESS**

Dianah Ellis asked whether or not the Parish Council had a list of trees covered by a TPO. The Clerk replied that this information was available on the SADC website on the GIS system. The Chairman stated that some time ago he had written an article for the residents magazine asking residents to put forward trees though worthy of protection.

Meeting closed at 12.05pm

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