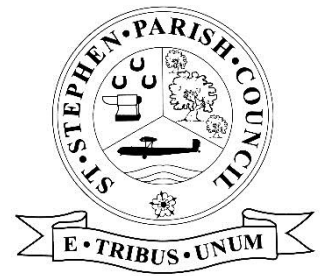


ST STEPHEN PARISH COUNCIL

Bricket Wood, Chiswell Green and Park Street

THE PARISH CENTRE STATION ROAD BRICKET WOOD
ST ALBANS HERTS AL2 3PJ
Tel: 01923 681443 Fax: 01923 681338
Email: clerk@ststephenparishcouncil.gov.uk
Web: www.ststephenparishcouncil.gov.uk



Present

Cllr John Bell (Chair)
Cllr Eileen Whittaker

Cllr John Parker

Also present:

Isabel Crozier, Assistant Clerk
Dave Williams, Senior Groundsman
Dianah Ellis (PELG)
0 Members of the public

Minutes of the **Trees and Woodlands Committee meeting**
held on **THURSDAY 1 NOVEMBER 2018** at **2.30pm**

Venue: **THE PARISH CENTRE, STATION ROAD, BRICKET WOOD, ST ALBANS, AL2 3PJ**

1819/TW/009 To receive and accept apologies for absence

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr Ian Getley and Cllr Hurford

1819/TW/010 To receive declarations of interest and dispensations

- a) To receive declarations of interest from Councillors on items on the agenda
None.
- b) To receive written requests for dispensations for declarable interests
None.
- c) To grant any requests for dispensation as appropriate
None.

1819/TW/011 To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 28 June 2018

Diane Ellis pointed out an error in the previous minutes. At agenda item number 1819/TW/006b) the minutes read "To enable access during the development and after, Linden Homes have given permission to improve the pathway." Minute should read "To enable access during the development and after, Linden Homes are looking at options for pathways"

RESOLVED: *proposed Cllr Bell, seconded Cllr Whittaker.*

that the minutes, incorporating the change above, is a true record.

Votes in favour: unanimous

Motion carried

1819/TW/012 Public Participation – to receive petitions, comments and questions

None.

1819/TW/013 Parish Environmental Liaison Group: Reports & Planning

a) Bricket Wood Common

- Work completed Summer 2018
The cattle returned to the Common this summer and left at the end of October. The Countryside Management Service has been working on improving the waymarking of the circular walk. St Albans City and

District Council (SADC) has been successful in obtaining Greenflag for Bricket Wood Common this year.

- Work schedule Autumn/Winter 2018/2019

The Munden Estate are continuing with the woodland management. Members of the committee raised concerns that the Munden Estate may be profiting from the woodland management and this contract should be assessed by SADC in order that SADC get best value. The Parish pay towards the management of the Common and it was felt that this arrangement should be reviewed to ensure the residents of the Parish were benefiting.

RESOLVED: *Proposed Cllr Whittaker, seconded Cllr Parker*

that the Parish identify what benefits are derived from the Parish Council contribution of circa £20,000. In addition, the Council should establish the levels of funding from other bodies.

ACTION: Assistant Clerk to set up a meeting with SADC Officers.

b) *Hanstead Wood*

- Work completed Summer 2018

Friends of Hanstead Wood continue to work once per month clearing paths, managing glades and pruning trees. A memorial bench has been installed for Mike and Val Carter.

- Work schedule Autumn/Winter 2018/2019

The Friends plan to continue to work throughout winter but need to establish access whilst building work is taking place on site. Tree thinning is due next year. The Friends are short on volunteers and need to attract more volunteers. The Friends will again be applying for Greenflag in January.

c) *How Wood*

- Work completed Summer 2018

Recently coppiced hornbeam at main entrance is regenerating well. The Friends of How Wood continue to maintain new plantings and keep paths clear.

- Work schedule Autumn/Winter 2018/2019

Lack of funding means that the planned management for the wood is on hold. SADC hope to secure Section 106 funding in future to deliver further tree works, thinning and coppicing.

1819/TW/014 Management: Reports & Planning

a) *Blackgreen Wood*

- Work completed Summer 2018

The volunteers have been working to keep on top of holly and define paths.

- Work schedule Autumn/Winter 2018/2019

Volunteers will continue to clear holly at the entrance.

ACTION: Grounds staff to clear paths at Business Park end of Wood.

In order to select and protect good quality regenerating trees within the recently the coppiced area grounds staff should identify good quality saplings, clear around these and place a tree guard with stake around them.

b) *Greenwood Park*

- Work completed Summer 2018

Volunteers have completed hedge laying around the allotments.

- Work schedule Autumn/Winter 2018/2019

The hedge/tree line along A405 is increasingly seeing trees with

broken limbs and the fence is in need of maintenance. The whole length of the boundary hedge along A414/A405 needs a plan for maintaining a barrier and shelterbelt.

Grounds staff will be thinning trees within the long copse in the meadow area this winter.

There is a need to lower the trees to hedge height on the boundary of North Close Play area for safety to establish sightlines for Parish vehicles accessing North Close green space. Chainlink fence here is broken and needs removing.

The edge of the woodland copse along the upper car park boundary is getting top heavy and is too tall to manage. The choice is either to lay the trees on the edge or to coppice them. Laying would require a grant and some investment from the Parish or coppicing them could be done by the Ground staff. Committee felt coppicing would be acceptable. Three Poplar trees removed on boundary to Tippendell Lane to be replaced with 3 standard sized (2-3m tall) Hornbeam trees (*Carpinus betulus Fastigiata*).

ACTION: Assistant Clerk to contact Highways Agency to see if there is help available for maintaining the fence/boundary trees. Assistant Clerk to produce a plan for managing the park boundaries.

ACTION: Grounds team to fill gaps in newly planted Beech hedge by Tippendell Lane entrance and where there are gaps in allotment hedge.

c) *St Julian's Wood*

- Work completed Summer 2018
Nettles were cleared from around the new saplings.
- Work schedule Summer/Autumn/Winter 2018/2019
Volunteers will be clearing a path through the Watling Chase planted copse at the back of the upper car park.
Removal of leaders on pollarded trees due.

ACTION: Ground staff to get quotes for contractors to undertake this and additional coppicing of mature hornbeam as per the management plan.

d) *Greenwood Park Meadow*

- Work completed Summer 2018
Meadow was cut end of July/early August.
- Work schedule Autumn/Winter 2018/2019
The Butterfly Conservation Society applied for a grant to create a chalk bank within the meadow, however, the grant body has requested further information and so the project is being delayed.

e) *Park Street Woodland Embankment*

- Work completed Summer 2018
Cleared deadwood from embankment.
- Work schedule Autumn/Winter 2018/2019
Desire to create a path along the embankment linking Watling Street with paths on Frogmore Pits.

f) *Park Street Recreation Ground*

- Summer 2018
No Update
- Work schedule Autumn/Winter 2018/2019
Mature Lime and Beech trees adjacent to fitness equipment need reducing
ACTION: Grounds team to get a contractor to reduce mature trees

1819/TW/015 To consider the budget forecast for 2019/2020

RESOLVED: *proposed Cllr Bell, seconded Cllr Whittaker*
that the following proposed budget go forward to the budget planning process

Votes in favour: unamious

Motion Carried

New Ear Marked reserves		
Tree Safety Survey	Estimate	£3,000
Reserves to roll over		
St Julian's Woodland management 16/17		£1,585
St Julian's Wood hedge cutting		£1,000
St Julian's meadow management plan		£500
Tippendell boundary trees	Remaining from tree safety work and replacement planting in 2018	£5,700
Tree safety work PS embankment		£1,029
Total		£12,814

The meeting closed at 4.00pm

Chairman

Date