

ST STEPHEN PARISH COUNCIL

Bricket Wood, Chiswell Green and Park Street

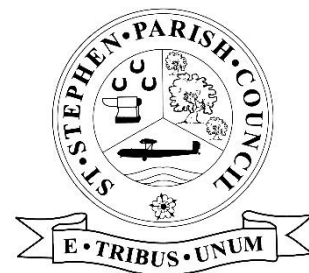
THE PARISH CENTRE STATION ROAD BRICKET WOOD

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Present

Cllr John Bell (Chair)

Cllr Karen Hurford

Cllr Eileen Whittaker

Also present:

Isabel Crozier, Assistant Clerk

Dianah Ellis (PELG), Matthew Huddleston (Groundsman) and Sue Hake (Clerk)

0 Members of the public

Minutes of the **Trees and Woodlands Committee meeting**

held on **THURSDAY 27 JUNE 2019** at **10am**

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

11am Meeting started late due to Chair being delayed.

1920/TW/001 To elect a Chairman of the planning Committee for 2019-20
RESOLVED: *Proposed Cllr Hurford, seconded Cllr Whittaker, unanimous*
that Cllr Bell continue to serve as Chair for the coming year.

1920/TW/002 To receive and accept apologies for absence
Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr Yates, John Roy and Dave Williams.

1920/TW/003 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.

1920/TW/004 To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 1 November 2019
Diane Ellis pointed out an error in the previous minutes. At item number 1819/TW/013b) the minutes read "The Friends will again be applying for Greenflag in January." Minute should read "The Friends will again be applying for Greenflag in future"
RESOLVED: *Proposed Cllr Bell, seconded Cllr Whittaker, unanimous*
that the minutes, incorporating the change above, is a true record.

1920/TW/005 Public Participation – to receive petitions, comments and questions
None.

1920/TW/006 To review and adopt the Terms of Reference of the Trees and Woodlands Committee

A draft Terms of Reference for the Committee were circulated in advance and included the addition of allotments, making it the Trees, Woodlands and Allotments Committee.

RESOLVED: *Proposed Cllr Bell, seconded Cllr Whittaker, unanimous*

That the draft Terms of Reference, as circulated, be adopted

ACTION: the Assistant Clerk to invite the Residents Associations to nominate a representative to attend future Committee Meetings.

1920/TW/007 To consider the results from the Parish Tree Survey

A report on the recent Parish Tree Safety Survey was circulated in advance of the meeting. The survey identifies a number of trees requiring work and groups them according to priority, those requiring attention within three months and 1 year. Initial quotes for the work indicate that the 3-month priorities alone could cost £7,000. Further quotes are being sourced.

RESOLVED: *Proposed Cllr Bell, seconded Cllr Hurford, unanimous*

that the 3-month priorities are actioned as a matter of urgency and that permission is sought from the District Council and Forestry Commission for all the tree work.

ACTION: Assistant Clerk and Groundsman to apply for TPO consent and a felling licence if applicable and obtain three quotes for 3 month priority work.

1920/TW/010 To agree 2019/20 allotment hire rates (this item was brought forward to enable Cllr Whittaker to be present)

RESOLVED: *Proposed Cllr Hurford, seconded Cllr Whittaker, unanimous*

that the allotment hire rates be increased by the rate of inflation (2%) and rounded up to the nearest one pound.

11.35am Cllr Whittaker left the meeting. The rest of the meeting was inquorate.

1920/TW/008 Parish Environmental Liaison Group: Reports & Planning

a) *Bricket Wood Common*

- Work completed Winter 2018/19
The cattle returned to the Common this spring. The Munden Estate have been continuing with woodland management, causing some concern amongst users of the Common. However, this has been raised at the Bricket Wood Common Joint Management Committee and it seems the District Council are unable to influence the way in which this work is carried out.
- Work schedule Summer 2019
There is a BWCJMC meeting on Tuesday which includes a walk around the site. The Ranger has organised a Teddy Bear's Picnic to be held 16 August 2019

b) *Hanstead Wood*

- Work completed Winter 2018/19
The Friends of Hanstead Wood continue to work once per month and have had a new volunteer join them. On Friday there was a break-in to the tool shed although it is not clear yet whether anything has been taken. The perpetrators removed the fence next to the kissing gate off Smug Oak Lane to gain access. The number of bird and insect species using the wood has increased this year and the wildflower meadow is looking particularly good. The electricity company have reduced the height of trees growing under the power lines.
- Work schedule Summer/Autumn 2019
The Friends plan to create a glade under the overhead power lines. An update from Linden Homes is expected next week including results from the tree safety survey and asbestos survey.

c) *How Wood*

- Work completed Winter 2018/19
No update received
- Work schedule Autumn/Winter 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 surfacing of paths, thinning and coppicing.

1920/TW/009 Management: Reports & Planning

a) *Blackgreen Wood*

- Work completed Winter 2018/19
The grounds staff have cut back paths once this spring. No further tree works completed due to expectation of work from tree survey.
- Work schedule Autumn/Winter 2019
Volunteers will continue to clear holly at the annual Christmas task. The tree survey has identified a significant number of trees to be removed or reduced and some of these will require clearing of holly and adjacent small trees in order to access the tree requiring work and ensure that it comes down safely. Regenerating saplings need to be cleared around and protected. A new management plan is required.

b) *Greenwood Park*

- Work completed Winter/Spring 2018/19
Three poplars from the boundary with Tippendell Lane were removed and a branch overhanging the road was removed from an Ash tree. Three hornbeam standard trees have been planted inside the play area boundary to replace the poplars.
- Work schedule Summer/Autumn 2019
The tree survey has identified a number of Highways trees that require attention in the next year on the boundary of the Park and these have been reported to Hertfordshire Highways.

c) *St Julian's Wood*

- Work completed Winter 2018/19
The Friends of St Julian's Wood have been thinning in the Watling Chase copse over the winter.
- Work schedule Summer/Autumn/Winter 2019
Volunteers will be removing deadwood and thinning in the long copse.

d) *Greenwood Park Meadow*

- Work completed Winter/Spring 2019
Butterfly Conservation have complete construction of the chalk bank and have started to plant it with a particular species of vetch which is the food plant of the Small Blue butterfly. They are having trouble with rabbits grazing off the new plants and might have to consider fencing.
- Work schedule Summer/Autumn 2019
Three quotes for the cutting of the meadow have been obtained. The contractor who undertook the cut last year has again quoted £1800. Further quotes of £775 and £650 have been submitted from known contractors. It was felt that the Council should give the contract to the contractor offering the lowest quote.
ACTION: Assistant Clerk to write a specification for the meadow cut to ensure that any damage to property is reinstated.

- e) *Park Street Woodland Embankment*
 - Work completed Winter/Spring 2018/19
none
 - Work schedule Summer/Autumn/Winter 2018/2019
Some trees have been identified in the tree survey as requiring work. Part of the embankment is in the Conservation Area and any work to trees here will require TPO consent.

- f) *Park Street Recreation Ground*
 - Work completed Winter 2018/19
No Update
 - Work schedule Summer/Autumn 2019
Tree Survey works as identified in the 2019 survey.

The meeting closed at 11.55am

Chairman

Date