

## **Liss Parish Council**

### **Minutes of the Grounds Committee meeting of 5th December, 2016**

**Members;** \*Cllr D Dodds (Chairman), Cllr K Budden, \*Cllr S Halstead, Cllr R. Hargreaves, \*Cllr H Linsley, \*Cllr F MacNamara, \*Cllr B Mayo.

\*Present, in addition to Cllr Liane McDonald and 2 members of the public

The meeting was clerked by S. Smith (Assistant Clerk)

#### **30/G16 Apologies**

Members accepted apologies from Cllr Budden and Cllr Hargreaves.

#### **31/G16 Declarations of interests**

Cllr Halstead declared a prejudicial interest in matters relating to the tennis courts as a member of the Tennis Club and Cllr Linsley as a Trustee of the Newman Collard Playing Fields Trust.

#### **32/G16 Adjournment for public participation**

Peter Coley and Ian Blake from Liss Forest Residents Association introduced themselves and gave a summary of the inadequate surface water drainage at Liss Forest Recreation Ground which meant the field was very boggy in parts. Local Surveyor Phil Deacon had produced a comprehensive report and, on the basis of this, Peter had produced a summary of recommendations. This commenced with clearance of the north and south ditch by volunteers with some costs associated with tree removal by a professional and hire of machinery. The Chair expressed his admiration for the work of the LFRA, in particular the amount of self-help. He advised that the insurance implications regarding volunteers would need to be considered. Cllr Mayo suggested a dialogue with John Nielan of the Conservation Rangers regarding planting to absorb excess water. The Chair proposed that LFRA seek funds from District Councillors and suggested that LPC would look favourably upon any request for financial support where necessary. The meeting was then reconvened.

#### **33/G16 Drainage at Liss Forest Recreation Ground**

Members agreed that following an approach by LFRA to District Councillors, that LPC would look favourably upon requests for funding to assist in both Phase 1 and 2 of the project as outlined in so far as this was necessary in alleviating the problems. The Clerk/Assistant Clerk would need to ensure that necessary insurances were in place for contractors. Cllr Halstead proposed that a long-term maintenance plan be considered at the same time so that this can be monitored under the Groundsman's work schedule.

Peter Coley and Ian Blake left the meeting at this point.

#### **34/G16 Minutes & matters arising from the Grounds Committee meeting on 13<sup>th</sup> June 2016 not otherwise on the agenda**

**It was resolved that** the minutes of the meeting of 13<sup>th</sup> June 2016 be accepted as an accurate record of the meeting (proposed by Cllr Linsley and seconded by Cllr MacNamara).

The Chairman gave an update on issues from the minutes not on the agenda:

#### **Actions completed:**

Allotments: fencing at Fernhills completed.

Liss Forest: bin next to bus stop and Cross Scales now in place.

West Liss: new goalposts now in place.

New Christmas tree lights: purchased and in place, however unfortunately one of the trees had been vandalised at the weekend and so the lights were out.

Lych Gate: now being discussed at Council level (response pending from developer Taylor Wimpey before considering further action).

Riverside walk: vegetation had been cut back to sides of path.

### **Actions ongoing:**

SLA review: the Chair advised that following an initial meeting with the tennis Club on 22<sup>nd</sup> February, a further meeting had taken place on 31<sup>st</sup> October. During this period the Tennis Club had made significant efforts to encourage public use of the tennis courts which had more than doubled as a result. Both the Crossover and Liss Junior School were being offered free access to the courts during the Tennis Club allocation of hours. Given the reduced number of hours remaining for Tennis Club members, the Tennis Club had been tasked with coming up with proposals to alleviate this. Members agreed that increased tennis playing and usage of the courts in general was positive, but noted that there was still room for improvement in the booking system to maximise use at the weekends.

The Chair advised that informal discussions had taken place with the NCPFT following meetings with the users which had led to a redrafted SLA. This draft would now need to be formally considered by LPC and NCPFT.

Duckhouse construction: the Assistant Clerk would check on progress with a view to completion of the project by Easter 2017. It was noted that the chain anchoring the duck house would need to be loose enough to prevent increased water levels submerging it.

West Liss: renovation of toddler tower would take place in due course, weather permitting.

### **35/G16 Grass cutting outside Triangle**

The Chair advised that a request had been received from the Triangle for LPC to take over the grass cutting once the transfer of ownership of the building from HCC to the Triangle was complete. Cllr Halstead declared an interest as a Trustee of the Triangle and refrained from taking part in the discussion. **It was resolved that** LPC would take on grass cutting outside the Triangle once the transfer of ownership was complete.

### **36/G16 Update on play equipment project at Newman Collard Recreation Ground and next steps**

The Chair advised that the consultation exercise was now complete and some further amendments had been made to the proposals as a result. The Expression of Interest for Biffa funding would be submitted shortly. If invited to full application stage there would be considerable work involved before the full application deadline in April 2017. A working group meeting would be called in the new year.

### **37/G16 Allotment tenants' meeting**

The Chair highlighted a few actions arising from the meeting as follows:

- The wording of the agreement on weed control (s.21) would be strengthened to encourage compliance;

- The Groundsman had been asked to look at the gate at Fernhills which had dropped and made it difficult to open;
- The Groundsman had been asked to lock the secondary gate at Mitchells following reports that the land behind the gate was treacherous.

A request had also been received for LPC to reconsider the tree policy as plots at Fernhills were becoming unworkable as a result of tress overhanging or growing within a plot.

**It was resolved that** any plots affected to the extent that they were no longer workable would be taken out of use.

**38/G16 Any other business**

Equipment: The Chair advised that a new Honda mower was required and would be ordered shortly.

Dog fouling: The Assistant Clerk advised that she had been in contact with the Liss Forest Residents Association as regards an anti-dog fouling campaign for Liss Forest. Given that the issue was village wide, the Assistant Clerk had investigated the Keep Britain Tidy ‘We’re watching You’ campaign. This campaign has seen an average 46% reduction in dog fouling. The cost would be £25 + VAT per sign with a minimum order of 10 signs, however LFRA would also make a contribution and District Councillors had already expressed a willingness to cover the cost. Members agreed that this would be a worthwhile project. The Assistant Clerk had also drafted something on anti-dog fouling for the Village Voice.

**39/G16 Date of next meeting:** 13<sup>th</sup> March 2016 at 7.45pm

The meeting closed at 9.20pm.

Signed.....

Dated.....