



STOCKTON HEATH PARISH COUNCIL

**MINUTES OF THE LAND ASSETS COMMITTEE HELD ON THURSDAY,
17 MAY 2018, AT 6.00PM AT STOCKTON HEATH LIBRARY, ALEXANDRA
ROAD, STOCKTON HEATH.**

Present: Councillors S L Dean, H J Dutton, A M Fell, C E Jones, L Murphy and P Todd

Attending: Mrs. L Jacob (Clerk); A Young

L18/001 Appointment of Chair of Committee

It was proposed by Cllr Jones and seconded by Cllr Fell and, in the absence of any other nominations, a vote was taken and the proposal was carried unanimously.

RESOLVED that Cllr. Dutton be appointed Chair of the Land Assets Committee for the civic year 2018/19.

L18/002 Apologies

Apologies were received and accepted from Frank Lythgoe and Mike Monks (Warrington Anglers Association)

L18/003 Terms of reference

The Terms of Reference of the committee, adopted by full council on 8 May 2018, were noted.

L18/004 Budget

Payments made and monies remaining across the budget headings over which the Land Assets Committee has oversight were noted. A budget of £14,543.48 is available for Ackers Pit which includes a commitment to expenditure for repair to the pathways (approximately £7500) and the usual expenses associated with hedge cutting, path edge strimming, easement payment to Peel Holdings and pest management. It was also noted that the wooden bridge at the Pit would need renewing in 2019/20 and this should be included during the budget proposal exercise for financial year 2019/20.

A budget of £5761.89 is available for Mill Lane, with an upcoming expenditure on bridge repairs necessary.

A budget of £1000 is available for Red Lane Allotments.

L18/005 Ackers Pit

1. Update: woodland management was undertaken by Holly Oak Tree Services to remove diseased growth, take out seed saplings and trim back overgrowth of branches in order to maintain healthy tree specimens. Cost was £1200 + VAT. The Water Bailiff and volunteers have recently carried out extensive works to the Pit edge including maintaining and tidying around the fishing pegs; clearance of a considerable amount of bramble and tangled undergrowth; replanting willow to a whole bank-side; the temporary shoring up of disintegrating banks; and the planting of bushes to discourage fishing near the weir.

Path renewal works are scheduled but have been postponed for several weeks because of nesting swans. David Webster of David Webster and Sons Ltd. had been contracted at a cost of £7,498.

2. There was some discussion about how to remedy the deterioration of the banking. It was recognised that maintenance will be ongoing and that the marginal planting that is in place will only slow erosion and not prevent it.

L18/006

Mill Lane

1. Update: woodland management was undertaken by Holly Oak Tree Services to remove diseased growth, take out seed saplings and trim back overgrowth of branches in order to maintain healthy tree specimens. Cost was £1200 + VAT.

Following the discovery that the majority of the wood on the bridge across the brook at Mill Lane/Chadwick Avenue was rotten, a revised quotation for the complete refurbishment of the handrail, wooden walkway and cladding to the sides of the bridge was submitted by Neil Drinkwater. The matter was raised at full council and the clerk was instructed to obtain two further quotations for comparison. It was pointed out that Neil Drinkwater had already made an investment in materials for the job. Cllr Murphy will provide the clerk with a contact for a quotation.

Stockton Heath Festival will be using the field for the Festival from 4 July until 10 July 2018. An enquiry had been made about the provision of suitable ground covering to prevent the gateway entrance to the field being damaged by delivery vehicles. Clerk to inform festival director that the marquee company should be able to provide such equipment in their hiring costs.

John Silcocks Amusements have made an agreement to hire the field for the placing of amusements during Walking Day on 14 July 2018.

The Scout group had made enquiries about fencing in the small area of land adjoining their scout hut and grounds. The Planning, Finance and General Purposes Committee investigated the matter and reported that the clauses included in the Fields in Trust Deed of Dedication document would prohibit this and therefore the request was not granted.

WBC have been asked to provide a quotation for wildflower planting to the margins of the field but have not yet advised costs. Cllr Dutton will follow this outstanding query up with Kevin McCready at WBC. The Clerk will ask for a quotation from Northwich Town Council.

L18/007

Red Lane Allotments

1. Update: the lease on the land at Red Lane expired on 31 March 2018 and a new lease document was issued for a lease of 6 years following legal advice on the terms of the lease. The signed document has yet to be returned.

Cllr Murphy had been tasked with looking into a renewal of the agreement with the resident of 60 Birchdale Road on having access to the property in order to keep the ditch clear. He explained that there was legally no way to enforce such an agreement. Representatives of the Stockton Heath Allotment Association were invited to the meeting but were unable to attend. The clerk to inform the Association that Cllr Murphy has agreed to hold a conversation with their members in order to answer the questions put regarding the clauses of the lease, but that he will be unable to provide written guidance as a conflict of interest exists, being that

he is acting in the interests of Stockton Heath Parish Council with regard to the lease agreement.

L18/008 **Memorial Bench at Ackers Pit**

The proposal for a memorial bench for a long-standing and devoted past councillor and Freeman of the Parish was discussed. It was agreed that Cllr Dutton will approach the family to enquire if the proposal would be favourable. A discussion on the type of bench took place and it was agreed that it should be in a similar style to the bench already placed at the Ackers Road end of the pit. Examples of benches and prices will be researched. A discussion took place about a memorial bench or tree to another prominent councillor. Cllr Dutton will approach the family and this item will appear on a future agenda.

L18/009 **Marginal Planting**

The proposal to plant water-fowl friendly plants to the margins of the Pit was discussed. Anita Young provided information on planting up ponds. A suggestion was that more marsh marigolds could be planted at the margins.

L18/010 **Reports from attendance at outside groups**

There were no reports from attendance at outside bodies.

L18/011 **Matters for noting not on the agenda**

There had been reports of possible drug-dealing at Ackers Pit – the clerk to inform the PCSOs.
Further planting of spring bulbs at Ackers Pit to be considered at the next meeting.

L18/012 **Date and Time of Next Meeting**

TBC and will be on a date following the Stockton heath Festival, with the annual inspection of Ackers Pit and Mill Lane to take place, weather dependant.

Meeting closed at 7.17 pm