

BENTHAM TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Open Spaces Committee on Wednesday 13 June 2018 at 6.30pm in the Lower Hall

Present: Cllrs Bridgeman, Burton, Faraday, Marshall, Swales & Taylor, and clerk, Mrs Burton

- OS1. To elect a Chairperson for 2018/19
RESOLVED: That Cllr Bridgeman be elected as chairman for the Open Spaces Committee for 2018/19
- OS2. To receive apologies from members unable to attend
 None
- OS3. To Receive & Record any member's Disclosable Pecuniary Interest in relation to items on the agenda and to receive and decide members requests for DPI dispensations
 None
- OS4. To agree the minutes of the previous meeting
RESOLVED: That the minutes of 12 February 2018 are agreed
- OS5. To discuss the Official Opening of the Philip Harvey Play Area
 Cllr Bridgeman had been in touch with Philip Boothman, Mr Harvey's grandson, and although he would be away his daughter would be pleased to attend and open the Play Area with a few words of history. The adverts were up around town and had also been put in Bentham News. It was agreed to try and get something put into the school newsletter. Cllrs Bridgeman & Faraday agreed to sort refreshments and a ribbon. Equipment to be borrowed from the Victoria Institute with an electric supply from Cllr Bridgeman's house. Cllr Marshall agreed to provide his gazebos for shelter (rain or shade!) and the clerk would contact Bentham Imaging to arrange a photographer.
RESOLVED: That Cllrs Bridgeman & Faraday arrange refreshments and borrow the equipment from the Victoria Institute
RESOLVED: That Cllr Marshall provide gazebos for shelter
RESOLVED: That the clerk contact Bentham Imaging regarding photographs
 The clerk confirmed the grasscutters were aware of the date and that the area should be neat and tidy for the opening. It was agreed that Kingsdale Projects should be asked to wash all the soft fall areas clean of mud. The picnic tables, benches and bins should be ordered. Contact with Craven regarding waste collection was promising but confirmation of free waste collection was still awaited.
RESOLVED: That Kingsdale Projects be asked to wash the soft fall areas
RESOLVED: That the clerk order the bins and benches etc from Glasdon
 Cllr Marshall had contacted John Godson of HAGs regarding the outstanding snagging issues and the poor groundworks and was meeting with him on Friday 15 June.
RESOLVED: That Cllrs meet with HAGs on Friday 15 June to resolve snagging issues and the areas of poor ground works
- OS6. Minor Items – if any
 Horton Landscaping had cut Tatterthorn Road end up the hedge still needed cutting back further. The grass cutting contract finishes at the end of this season and will need to go out to tender in the autumn so should be put on the next agenda

There being no further business the meeting ended at 7.15pm

Cllrs Bridgeman & Swales left the meeting. The remaining Cllrs then walked the assets

OS7. To Walk the Council Open Spaces

School Hill is in reasonable shape. The area does need weeding, and should be washed down before the Remembrance Service in November

The Cemetery was in poor state. Cllr Marshall sent photos and spoke to Horton Landscaping immediately (area was cut Friday 15 June). A broken bench, beyond repair, should be removed. It was noted that Margaret Staveley's gravestone had come apart. The clerk confirmed that this is one that the relatives cannot be traced

The Green at Low Bentham had also not been cut recently although was shorter than the Cemetery. The state of the Cross was discussed and it was agreed to seek a price for renovation / refurbishment – probably to be done in the next financial year.

The Play Area, whilst installation is finally complete except for snagging issues, there are still some problems with the groundworks. Cllrs would be meeting with HAGs Friday to discuss the uneven ground, lack of top soil and need for stone picking. The boundaries are in need of attention – all weeds should be strimmed back and neighbouring trees cut back to a height of 8 feet (some of this will need to be done over the winter months). The fence boundary with the old school needs weed killing to stop weeds growing through the fence.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.15pm.