

BARLING MAGNA PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Wildlife Reserve Committee Meeting held on Tuesday, 6th June 2017 in the Great Wakering Community Centre, High Street, Great Wakering, Essex commencing at 7.00 p.m.

Present: Cllrs. S. Bond, M. Clark, M. Cohen (ex officio), R. Gardiner (Vice-Chair), I. Knight (Chair), M. Pearmain, M Steptoe (ex officio).

In attendance: Cllr. A. Ashdown, Mr. P. Shaw (Volunteer) and I. King (Parish Clerk).

MINUTES

1. The Chair to declare the meeting open.

- a. The Chair declared the meeting open.

2. To elect a Committee Chair for 2017-18

- a. Councillor Pearmain nominated Cllr Knight, seconded by Councillor Bond. For 4; against 0; abstention 1.
- b. It was noted that Councillor Gardiner would continue as vice-chair of the committee until an election for the office, which would be on the agenda of the next meeting of the committee.

3. To receive apologies for absence.

- a. There were no apologies

4. To receive Declarations of Interest in accordance with the Council's Code of Conduct and with section 106 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992.

- a. Councillor Steptoe declared a non-pecuniary interest in planning matters and any relating to Rochford District Council or Essex County Council

5. To agree the Minutes of the Wildlife Reserve Committee held on 1st February 2017.

- a. Proposed by Councillor Pearmain and seconded by Councillor Gardiner that the minutes of the meeting held 1st February 2017 be agreed. For 7; against 0; abstentions 0.

6. The meeting will stand adjourned to permit Parishioners of Barling Magna to address the Committee

- a. No members of the public wished to address the committee.

7. Equipment

- a. A list of equipment renewals, replacements and consumables had been produced by Mr Shaw. It was agreed to include two pairs of secateurs. Councillor Steptoe declared a non-pecuniary interest as his firm maintained a contract with Eurolube with which firm the Council had an account for the supply of fuel. Proposed by Councillor Pearmain, seconded by Councillor Cohen that the list be commended to the Full Council for approval of expenditure. Agreed unanimously.

8. Fencing

- a. The clerk reported that there had been three attempts in a year to repair fences by invitations to tender – all without success. The Wildlife Reserve volunteers would shortly be repairing the damaged car park fencing. Ropers Farm were expecting to replace the boundary fence adjacent to the reserve shortly and this might relieve the Council of the task. However, apparently they only intend to repair the first 100 metres. In discussion, there was a consensus that the ditch, trees and brambles presented both an adequate barrier to entry and also a formidable obstacle to effecting repairs. Mr Shaw offered to review the situation in the autumn. It was noted that there were some fence posts in the roof of the barn and others were stored in containers.

9. Options for the future charitable status of the Wildlife Reserve

- a. A paper on the strengths and weaknesses of placing the Wildlife Reserve under the aegis of the Parish Hall charity had been prepared by the Clerk and this was discussed. Members felt that the report set out the options well. It was agreed that the issues required a further period of careful reflection. Some members felt that the Parish Hall charity would not be the right charitable agency. The paper was commended both to the full council on 13th July 2017 and also to the trustees of the Parish Hall at their June meeting. Mr Shaw kindly offered to investigate the benefits of being designated a Local Nature Reserve.

10. Forthcoming events – to receive reports and agree any action

- a. Fun Dog Show – 15th July 2017. The chair commended Councillor Bond for all his hard work in leading the preparations. A field had been offered for main parking, with the Reserve car park being kept for those with mobility issues. There would be parking marshals on the day. Councillor Bond had received helpful advice from the Rochford Environmental Health Team regarding food hygiene courses. He also provided a contact within RDC to advise on Food Hygiene/Food Preparation for public events. He passed this on to Councillor Gardiner's wife, who had volunteered to take on the food preparation and sales for the forthcoming Fun Dog Show. The clerk continued to work on the draft Event Management Plan.

- b. Councillor Steptoe reported on the BMPC PA system. This had been PAT tested by Councillor Edmunds but it still needed a longer lead, a microphone lead and the wireless component, which had gone missing after a Quiz event some time ago. The clerk was asked to check on the requirements for PAT testing in future and the insurance cover for volunteers undertaking PAT testing.
- c. Councillor Ashdown was concerned about the use of a petrol generator when this appeared to be specifically ruled-out by the Event Management Plan. The clerk was asked to check the position with our insurers.
- d. Teddy Bears Picnic – 9th September 2017 It was noted with regret that Mrs Gardiner would be unable to fulfil this year the roles she had played in previous year’s Teddy Bears’ Picnics: cake-baking, organising volunteers and the raffle prizes, reading and entertaining the children singing. Council would be asked to come to a decision about whether or not this event could proceed in 2017.

11. To note agreed dates for 2017 meetings of the Committee

- a. Members noted the following dates:
 - Tuesday, 5th September
 - Tuesday, 5th December

12. Exchange of Information.

- a. Mr Shaw shared that he and the other volunteers had had an informal discussion about planning for future work in the reserve and they would continue to meet informally to seek further volunteers.
- b. Mr Shaw shared a concern among the volunteers about dogs being allowed off the lead. They would like to suggest a section of the Reserve where dogs must be kept on leads to protect the habitat. They were also concerned about the hosting of the Fun Dog Show in the Reserve for that reason. There was a request for a discussion on encouraging wildlife and diversity to be on a future agenda.

The Chair closed the meeting at 8.35pm

* * * * *