



MINUTES

Committee: Open Spaces Committee
Date: Tuesday 16 July 2024
Time: 7:00pm
Venue: Parish Council Office

Present

Cllr Gordy Keep (Chairman)
Cllr Mike Jeffery
Cllr Mike Warner
Cllr Gemma Hampton
Cllr Rob Austin

Also Present

Samantha Parkin (Clerk)

PUBLIC SESSION

The committee conducted a site visit at The Sentry and Churchyard to better understand the issues discussed in minutes no. 25/2024, 26/2024, and 27/2024.

21/2024 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Fileman-Wright.

22/2024 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS / REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATIONS

No declarations of interest or requests for dispensations were received.

23/2024 MINUTES

It was proposed by Cllr Warner, seconded by Cllr Jeffery, and **resolved** to accept and sign the minutes of the meeting held on 21st May 2024 as a correct record.

24/2024 STANDING ITEM - CLIMATE AND ECOLOGY EMERGENCY

The Council noted the Declaration to embed the climate and ecology emergency declaration across all Council services, activities, plans, and other relevant work, considering the environmental impact of decisions, ensuring a fully integrated approach to mitigating the impact of climate change.

25/2024 SENTRY SEATING AREA

The clerk's report had been circulated with the agenda. The site visit had highlighted the benches needed repair or replacement.

It was proposed by Cllr Keep, seconded by Cllr Jeffery, and **resolved to recommend** to full council to replace one bench with a recycled plastic bench, tanalised the remaining benches and repair with the old bench.

26/2024 PLAYPARK SURFACE

The clerk's report had been circulated with the agenda; the clerk had since received recommendations for local companies who were willing to visit the site and provide a quote.

The committee agreed to decide following the above site visits.

27/2024 OPEN SPACES TENDER

The clerk's report was circulated with the agenda. The committee discussed the recent cut conducted by volunteers following Tomlinson Trees' resignation. Opinions varied on the cutting approach for the churchyard. The clerk proposed drafting two tenders: one for maintaining all areas in a neat and tidy manner, and another for managing areas to encourage wildflower growth and support habitats for insects and small vertebrates. These tenders will be presented to the council for consideration.

Cllr Austin suggested seeding the verges with wildflowers to make Moretonhampstead look welcoming for residents and visitors entering the town.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 7.36pm.