

MINUTES OF THE OPEN SPACES COMMITTEE

Minutes of the open spaces committee meeting of Theale Parish Council held in the Peter Gooch Room, Pavilion on Monday 13th June 2022

Members present: Cllrs M Church, A Clark, P Clifford (chairman), S Coker, L Cox, Z Fenwick, K Gash, I Hopcroft, M Paul & J Richardson.

Clerk: P Manley

Meeting started 7:30pm

OPE/1/22/23 To receive apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Gallop.

OPE/2/22/23 Election of committee chairman and vice-chairman

RESOLVED to elect Paul Clifford as chairman of the open spaces committee for the year 2022–3.

Proposer: Cllr Gash. Seconder: Cllr Fenwick. Vote in favour.

RESOLVED to elect Katie Gash as vice-chairman of the open spaces committee for the year 2022–3.

Proposer: Cllr Hopcroft. Seconder: Cllr Fenwick. Vote in favour.

OPE/3/22/23 To adopt the minutes of the meeting on 9th May 2022

RESOLVED to adopt the minutes of the meeting on 9th May 2022 as an accurate record of the meeting.

Proposer: Cllr Cox. Seconder: Cllr Clark. Vote in favour with two abstentions due to non-attendance.

Cllr Cox asked whether Hebborns Family Funfair had given a reason for cancelling. The clerk cited 'family matters'.

The chairman decided to move item 4 on the agenda to the end, allowing the meeting to exclude the public and press.

OPE/4/22/23 To discuss the quality of the grounds maintenance contractor's work

The following concerns were raised:

- a grass cut too long
- b clippings left after cut, eg at Roundhead Road which prompted complaints from residents
- c long grass around the Pavilion, skatepark, play area, benches & bins
- d cutting under London plane and oak despite requests not to do so.

However, it was also noted that unmown grass was not always a bad thing, especially from an ecological perspective.

To address the council's concerns, it was

RESOLVED to arrange a face-to-face meeting between Pro Landscapes and up to four members.

Proposer: Cllr Clark. Seconder: Cllr Fenwick. Vote in favour.

OPE/5/22/23 To discuss interaction with sports clubs [see FUL/18/22/23 MAY]

Cllr Clifford noted that there is currently no mechanism for gathering feedback from sports clubs which use the council's open spaces, and that there is a need to build relationships.

RESOLVED to arrange a meeting between the committee and users of the council's open spaces, including football clubs, Theale & Tilehurst Cricket Club, and fitness groups.

Proposer: Cllr Cox. Seconder: Cllr Fenwick. Vote in favour.

OPE/6/22/23 To resolve that the public leave the meeting, pursuant to the Public Bodies (Admissions to meetings) Act 1960, section 1(2)

Due to the confidential nature of the remaining item, it was

RESOLVED to exclude the public from the meeting, pursuant to the Public Bodies (Admissions to meetings) Act 1960, section 1(2).

Proposer: Cllr Hopcroft. Seconder: Cllr Fenwick. Vote in favour.

Remaining minutes confidential.

Signed _____ Dated _____