

GRANGE PARK PARISH COUNCIL

Community Centre, School Lane
Grange Park, Northampton NN4 5FZ

Bookings: 01604 701431 (Mon/Wed/Fri 9am-11.45am only)
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www.grangeparkpc.org

MINUTES OF THE EXTRA-ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 19th NOVEMBER 2009 AT THE RICHMOND HOMES GRANGE PARK

Present: Cllrs A Walker (Ch), M Smith, D Ramsay, M Aluko, C Fry , C Nobbs, T Jainu-Deen

Attending: Mrs T Sampson (Clerk)

09/337 Public Questions

None

09/338 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr N Wilson, Cllr S Cates

No apologies were received from Cllr N Stansfield, Cllr M Stansfield and Cllr L Ellington

09/339 Declaration of Members Interest

None

09/340 Discuss in Detail Contract 4 – Maintenance and upkeep of all openspaces within the Parish)

The Chairman reported on the following issues and tabled relevant drawings and information:

- Thinning of the Pioneer species is currently out to tender and are due back beginning of December. This work includes a number of existing hedges which overhang footpaths – It is estimated that we need to budget for £10,000-£15,000 per annum.
- Maintenance to the existing and retained hedges and ditches that will require ongoing maintenance. It was recommended that the majority of the historic and redundant ditches should be backfilled with drainage material and soil to remove the long term maintenance and health and safety issues. The estimated cost of this work is £15,000
- An assessment has been undertaken to identify any dead trees which formed part of the original planting plans, with recommendations for replacement with the same tree species or in some instances non – replacement. The estimated cost for this is £3,500.
- Recommended that the allotment area should be cut 3-4 times per year as part of our current regime
- Issues and concerns associated with the island planting in the centre of Foxfields were identified and drawings were tabled for consideration. The approx cost was (Plan A £10,000, Plan B, £15,000, Plan C 20,000) or alternatively to do nothing.
- Remedial and surface replacement works associated with the playparks. Proposals need to incorporate the revised ROSPA recommendations in fall heights. The estimated cost for these work will be in the region of £25,000.

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- Desilting and Cleaning of Foxfields Pond – an estimated cost of £10,000
- Unforeseen issues such as the loss of branches to existing trees, damage to soft landscaping etc. A contingency allowance of £10,000 should be considered.

The Council considered all the points raised in the above issues and decided due to the cost not to pursue the island planting in the middle of Foxfield Country Park. All the other issues were considered and it was decided to defer the decisions until the budget has been formulated and approved.

The Chairman reported that there had been a criminal damage incident reported to the police regarding some trees which had been chopped down within the boundary of Foxfield Country Park. The Council agreed not to pursue this case but for the Chairman to write in the next newsletter an article informing residents who butt on to this boundary the protocol associated with any landscaping structure that is maintained and the responsibility of Grange Park Parish Council.

Action: Chairman

It was also agreed that a quote needs to be obtained for the post and rail fencing to be re-erected within the boundary of Foxfields Country Park and that the Parish Council would discuss with our landscape consultants the possibility of creating desire lines.

The Council agreed and approved that if we were going to include some of the expenditure (subject to budget) mentioned above then it would be good practice if we circulated an ‘explanation leaflet’ within the same envelope of the Council Tax renewals for 2010. Cllr Nobbs volunteered to draft a leaflet and will table it at the meeting in January for consideration.

Action: Cllr Nobbs

The Council considered the renewal of the existing contract for our landscaping company Frost which expires in April 2010 although there is clause within the contract to extend it another 2 years. The Clerk was asked to speak to the Frosts to see if we could extend it for another year and seek a review of current cost with a possible reduction.

Action: Clerk

09/341

Date of Next Meeting

The next Parish Council meeting is scheduled for Thursday 3rd November 2009 at the Community Centre, Grange Park.

There being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 09.30pm.