

**SHAFTESBURY TOWN COUNCIL****Recreation, Open Spaces and Environment Committee**

Minutes of a meeting of the Recreation, Open Spaces and Environment Committee held in the Council Chamber, High Street, Shaftesbury Dorset SP7 8LY on Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> September 2015 commencing at 7:00pm.

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**Members Present:**

Councillor K Tippins (Chair)	Councillor Jackson (Vice-Chair)
Councillor Hall (for part of the meeting)	Councillor Taylor
Councillor R Tippins	Councillor Todd

**Absent:**

There were no members absent.

**Officers Present:**

Claire Commons, Committee Services Officer

**In Attendance:**

Cllr P Proctor  
Six members of the public

**MINUTES****Public Participation**

Members of the public were invited to make representations to the Council on any matters relating to the work of the Council or to raise any issues of concern. The following matters were raised;

- Linden Park Corner. Trees had been damaged in the storm and trees and bushes had been replanted. All the bushes had now gone and appear to have been dug up and taken. Also one of the trees was dead. It was agreed to follow this up with the Shaftesbury Open Spaces Group in order to provide a response to the enquirer.
- Damage at Trinity Road. Damage had been caused by an individual who had driven over the grass with a vehicle loaded with bricks en-route to the Persimmon estate. This had already been followed up with the management company; it was agreed also to request that officers follow up with the Site Manager of Persimmon.
- Trees at Wincombe Recreation Ground. It was asked what was planned for the previously planted trees. It was confirmed that the trees had been thinned earlier in the year. This enquiry would be passed on to the Shaftesbury Open Spaces Group.

- Park Walk Gardens. Concern was expressed at the condition of the gardens, especially in view of the impending Royal Visit. It was noted that there was an absence of roses on the locally known 'Rose Garden'.
- Grounds Management Plan. It was confirmed that the agenda item provides the public document of the management plan and this would be provided on the website.
- General grounds maintenance. Concern was expressed that areas were not being kept to a suitable standard. The Committee concurred that a gardener's advice would be welcome.
- Cemetery. It was asked whether there was a plan to remove the spoil heap. It was confirmed that this item was included on the agenda.
- Tout Hill tree works. It was asked that the Council confirm whether the tree works were the responsibility of the Housing Association.

**R26 Apologies**

Received from Cllr Hall for late arrival.

**R27 Declarations of Interest and Dispensations**

No declarations of interest or dispensations had been received. All members were invited to declare any interests throughout the meeting if the need arose.

**R28 Minutes**

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the minutes of the meeting held on 7<sup>th</sup> July 2015 as a correct record and they were duly signed.

**R29 Chairman's Announcements**

Queen Mothers Garden. A generous donation had been received from Mrs Notley and thanks were extended to her for this.

Royal Visit. It was confirmed that the Countess of Wessex would be visiting the Town on 23rd September 2015 and would be meeting children from the local schools and groups.

7:30pm Cllr George Hall arrived.

Bee Friendly Town and Queen Mother's Garden. Brigit Strawbridge spoke about the importance of being bee friendly, and about the various species of bee that had been spotted in the Queen Mother's Garden, and the habitat each needed. The Chair thanked Brigit for her work and the excellent relationship between town council and community. Thanks were extended to Mr Thomas for his help digging out the old laurel.

Councillor Proctor considered that a plaque sign could be included on the entrance to the Queen Mother's Garden and this would be looked in to.

**R30 Tree Applications**

Officer Report 0915ROSE05 was received. The Committee **RESOLVED** to submit the following observations to North Dorset District Council:

Reference	Address	Detail
TPO 538-2015	Land at Mampitts Road and Trinity Road	G1 – 3 x Maple G2 – 2 x Oak T1 – Maple T2 – Ash T3 – Maple T4 – Lime
Tree Preservation Order was noted.		
TPO 538-2015	Land at Mampitts Road and Trinity Road	G1 – 3 x Maple G2 – 2 x Oak T1 – Maple T2 – Ash T3 – Maple T4 – Lime
The Committee requested of the District Council that following the provisional six months, the tree is applied with a permanent Tree Preservation Order due to its prominence and sensitive location.		
2/2015/1164/CATREE	Plots 3 To 7 And 11 Castle Gardens, Bimport, Shaftesbury, Dorset, SP7 8GG	T1 - Rear of Plot 11 - Cherry - Fell - As leaning (under canopy of adjacent beech) with damage to trunk. T2 - Rear of Plot 6 - Sapling - Remove sapling on right of photo. The following trees, which are in an area of low hanging growth above a public footpath all to be Crown lifted to 9-10ft. (see plan and photographs) T3 - Plot 5 - Beech T4 - Plot 7 -Beech T5 - Plot 6 - Beech T6 - Plot 4 - Fir T7 - Plot 5 - Beech T8 - Plot 4 - Beech T9 - Plot 4 - Beech T10 - Plot 4 - Beech T11 - Plot 4 - Beech T12 - Plot 3 - Copper Beech T13 - Plot 5 - Fir T14 - Plot 5 - Yew T15 - Plot 5 - Yew
Tree Group Comments:		

Reference	Address	Detail
T1	Plot 11 - Fell Cherry.	This is rather a poor specimen that is shaded by a beech tree and is growing away from it into the garden. We do not think this tree has much of a future, so do not object to it being felled.
T2	remove beech saplings.	These trees were deliberately left when the NDDC Tree Officer approved the original tree planting and removal scheme with the developer, and they could usefully form part of the newly planted hedge, so we recommend that these are coppiced (at around a metre high) rather than removed.
T3	crowns lift branches over footpath.	We agree that branches hanging over a footpath must be cut back to 2.4m, and there are a few holly branches which are dipping down. Otherwise there are very few twigs of the other trees which in the rain overhang down to this height over the actual path here.
		These branches form a pleasing natural arch, dipping over to the grass beyond the path, and under which fine views of the valley are framed. So we do not think that the overhanging branches should be crown lifted to 9-10 feet, only the holly branches directly over the footpath.
		We are particularly concerned about the large beech tree on the north east corner that has a natural grace and importance, that can be seen from Castle Green, Enmore Green and beyond, and do not want any work done to it that puts the form or longevity of the tree in jeopardy. We fear that any cuts to its secondary or tertiary limbs will detrimentally affect the inherent grace of the tree. None of this tree should be cut.
		We will be adding this "Anchor" tree to our list of Shaftesbury's Significant Trees.
Committee Observation:		
T1	Cherry.	No objection to the felling but request that a replacement tree is planted within the closest garden.
T2	Beech saplings.	Objection to the removal of the saplings and requested that they be coppiced to 1 metre high.
T3-T15	Various trees.	The Committee agreed that the trees overhanging the footpath only be lifted to not exceed 2.4m in line with legal requirement.

### R31 Tree Works

Officer Report 0915ROSE06 was received. It was **RESOLVED** to instruct contractor A to undertake the works for Tout Hill, Trinity Churchyard and St James. (*Budget provision - £1,980 General Tree Works, £990 St James and Castle Hill Tree Works. Statutory Provision – Open Spaces Act 1906 s.10*)

### R32 Budget

The Officer's Report 0915ROSE07 was received. It was **RESOLVED** to request a draft budget of £60,000 to the next stage in the budget setting process. Councillor

Jackson volunteered to investigate garden centre sponsorship of areas of open space within the town.

**R33 Grounds Management Plan**

Officer Report 0915ROSE08 was received. It was **RESOLVED** to approve the plan and noted that the Committee wished to look at provision of window boxes on the Town Hall from the current planting budget.

**R34 Officer Report**

Officer Report 0915ROSE09 was received and noted. The following matters were considered for further investigation:

- Public toilets – consider costs for continuing cleaning beyond October 2015 and to include year-round cleaning within the budget for the forthcoming year.
- Public Spaces – investigate option of signs to deter consumption of alcohol in public places.
- Hilltop Litterpickers – thanks were extended for the group’s work and considered that the Council should provide some publicity for the group.
- Lions Mouth – investigate requesting transfer from Dorset County Council, budget implication for 2016/17.
- Skate Park at Barton Hill Recreation Ground – it was requested to investigate painting to be undertaken by the Grounds Team, the installation of additional equipment and vandal-proof seating within the budget for the current year.
- Trinity Centre – proceed with investigating a service level agreement to take responsibility of the maintenance of the land at the Trinity Centre.

There being no further business, the meeting was closed at 8:55pm

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Signed

Date

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