

Stratton Parish Council

Official Minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting of the Stratton Parish Council held on 19th February 2019 at the Stratton Village Hall

Present

Cllrs A Aylott, P. Hallett, C. Hobbs, G, Hollinshead, A. Wheeler, and two members of the public.

Welcome

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the Extraordinary Meeting.

Apologies

Clerk Mr C Boulton.

77/18 Public Participation

There were no questions or comments from the members of public.

78/18 Visual Inspection and Health Appraisal Report of Playing Field Trees

Chairman gave a brief oversight of why the report had been commissioned and the reason for its importance, and that Councillors needed to discuss all the points in the Report and try to create an Action Plan on what the Parish Council should do going forward. Agreed by all that an Action Plan was required.

Agreed by Councillors to discuss each of the 13 potential action points to first agree what was or was not required. It was agreed to look at those action points marked as 'required' first, and then to debate those action points marked as 'preventative' points.

POTENTIAL ACTION POINTS – REQUIRED

EASTERN HEDGE AREA – AREA 1

1. Height of trees/hedge cleared above Highway - 2.7m

Agreed – to trim to 2.7m height, to inform maintenance contractor of new height required. To be dealt with immediately

2. Area around Street Light to be cleared back and shaped

Agreed – to inform maintenance contractor to trim and shape trees around street light to allow full and proper light. To be dealt with immediately.

NORTHERN HEDGE LINE – AREA 2

3. Overhanging vegetation, to trim back to edge of hardstanding area plus 2m clearance

Agreed – that vegetation alongside tennis court should be trimmed back to give 2m clearance. Date yet to be set for this action.

NORTHERN HEDGE LINE – AREA 3 & 3A

4. Advise Resident's that it is illegal for them to trim/cut trees

Agreed – to inform residents that it is illegal for them to trespass and destroy Parish trees, that legal action would follow if this was ignored. To be part of full reply to residents of all actions being carried out by Parish Council.

POTENTIAL ACTION POINTS - PREVENTATIVE

EASTERN HEDGE AREA – AREA 1

5. To consider thinning number of alders in upper slopes

Further information required – how many trees need to be removed, at what cost, what timing. To request detail from Report author.

NORTHERN HEDGE LINE – AREA 3 & 3A

6. Dead trees at top of slope, could be left as standing deadwood habitat,
Agreed to leave dead trees in situation as standing deadwood habitat.

OR

7. Inform residents that a small number of trees could be removed and replace with a mixture of smaller trees – if they are pay

Agreed that the trees and land belong to the Parish Council, and as such no individual resident would be asked to pay or put their own trees on Parish land.

8. Top of banking next to retaining walls – to create 2m clearance buffer of vegetation

Agreed that (where possible) for a 2m clearance buffer to be made next to the retaining wall. This work to be done as soon as possible.

9. Overhanging vegetation in Area 3A to be removed and saplings thinned out favouring cherry trees

Agreed that overhanging vegetation and saplings need to be thinned to assist growth of cherry trees. Date yet to be set for this action.

10. Squirrel damaged stems to be removed

Further information required – how many trees, indication is that it might be two trees, at what cost, what timing. To request detail from Report author.

11. Two lots of touching/crossing stems to be removed

Further information required – how many stems to be removed, at what cost, what timing. To request detail from Report author.

NORTHERN HEDGE LINE – AREA 4

12. Overhanging trees/large shrubs, to be removed

Agreed that overhanging trees/large shrubs need to be cut back to prevent invasion of playing field area. Date yet to be set for this action.

13. Large clump of bramble to be cut back to prevent it from becoming invasive

Agreed that the large clump of brambles need to be cut back and controlled to prevent invasion of playing field area. Date yet to be set for this action.

Suggestion made that voluntary helpers from Dorset Wildlife Trust might be able to give assistance or provide guidance on the best ways of controlling areas of brambles or of cutting back overhanging branches. Agreed that an informal approach be made to Dorset Wildlife Trust to see what help or advice they could provide.

Date of the next Meeting

Ordinary Meeting – 19th March 2019 at 7pm

Meeting closed at 8.00 pm