

HOLT TOWN COUNCIL

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MEETING OF THE SPOUT HILLS COMMITTEE on Tuesday 10th September 2019
at 5.00 p. at Nelson House.

Present: Cllr J Allison (Chair), Cllr Bryan Payne (BP) Cllr Ben Philo (BPh) Cllr Phil Wright (PW) Fiona Jolliffe(FJ), Tony Leech(TR) and George Rudd(GR).
Glynis Williamson Locum Town Clerk

1. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

On a **PROPOSAL** by Tony Leech, **SECONDED** by Cllr Payne, **John Allison** was duly elected.

2. ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIRMAN

On a **PROPOSAL** by Cllr Payne, **SECONDED** by Cllr Wright, Tony Leech was duly elected.

3. APOLOGIES

There were none.

4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Fiona Jolliffe declared membership of NWT, CPRE and River Glaven Conservation Trust.

Tony Leech declared membership of NWT, CPRE and River Glaven Conservation Trust group.

5. AGREE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 7TH September 2018

It was agreed the minutes were somewhat disjointed so it was **proposed** by John Alison to accept the minutes as a true record in principle and corrections could be made as and when required. **Seconded** by Tony Leech, agreed by all.

6.MATTERS ARISING. Cllrs Hipperson and Neech were no longer councillors and it was **proposed** by John Allison that Cllrs. Ben Philo and Phil Wright are co-opted onto the committee. **Seconded** by Cllr Payne agreed by all.

There was discussion over the use of small power tools and if it was permissible to use them, would they be covered by insurance if there were any incidents/accidents. It was not known if the rules were different if the power tools were owned by individuals or by the Town Council. Would battery operated tools fall into a different category? It was agreed to make a list of small tools that would be needed then to get full details and quotes from insurers.

Bins, another dog bin had been installed and a further bin was due to be placed inside the gate. No one knew if the bins were emptied by NNDC or if maintenance team emptied them.

Long term we may be able to do away with the dog bins at the top.
The scythe bar cutter had been purchase but there was some concern about the payments.

**Once list of small tools was compiled clerk to liaise with insurers.
Clerk to check re the payments of scythe bar cutter.**

7. CLOSE THE MEETING FOR PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Public Participation

No public present

8. Access gate (3) TO Spout Hills (Copy of fire officers report attached appendix 3)

John Allison was concerned that the way the parking spaces in the car park at Letheringsett Hill had been laid out meant there was little room for access for emergency vehicles. He had spoken to Town Clerk about freeing up a space to allow better access. A space had become free and it would have to go to full council to decide if it was acceptable to reduce spaces by one.

Regarding access if the gate was kept locked, with a certain type of lock if Fire Engine was needed they would know this was a specific lock and they hold a colour coded key that would open it. All Fire Engines carry the same sets of keys so any crew could gain access. Simon Williams could obtain locks and keys for about £30.00 each. With Little Hills although access could be gained through Town Close to have continuity the gates could also be locked with same type of lock. Keys could also be held by working parties and maintenance men.

Clerk to add both items to Town Council meeting of 14th October.

There was discussion over cutting the Boundary Hedge that adjoins Letheringsett Hill. Highways had asked if Town Council maintenance men could do this but they did not have suitable machinery. It was agreed to research a contractor to do this or perhaps find someone to do it as a charitable act.

9. PROGRAMME OF WORKS (If applicable)

TL had produced a rough map and written suggestions of the work that was appropriate to the areas and this was discussed and agreed. (See appendix 1 & 2)
At the last Town Council meeting it had been agreed a chipper could be hired at £103.13+vat, including delivery and collection for two days. The Holly that had been cut down by the working party could then be chipped and possibly the chips used to define the pathways.

9.1 CLEARANCE OF POND

John Allison explained that there was silt in the bottom of the pond and this could contain large rocks and items including glass thrown in. Children and dogs go in the water and he was concerned someone could get hurt. Last year the pond was not drained the level was lowered and they got in wearing wellies. This was not really successful. There was much discussion as to whether the effort involved would outweigh the positives reached. George Rudd **proposed** the pond was drained there was no seconder. Cllr Payne **proposed** having a partial clean up and then revisit to see if a full drain was needed. All present agreed this action.

10. CONSIDER CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED

No further correspondence had been received.

Further comments were made as follows:-

John Allison acknowledge that most of the volunteers were getting older and because of the amount of work the maintenance men had t was not always easy to have Terry available with the kabuto when they needed him. He had details of a tractor he felt would be very useful, attachments could be added to enable a lot of the heavy work to be taken off the volunteers and they could be independent of the Town Council maintenance men. It would be road legal so could be stored at the cemetery and brought down as and when needed. The cost would be £7,995.00 + vat plus a further £1,000.00 for a flail. He suggested the Town Council should be approached to make an application to the Big Society.

Tony Leech and Fiona Jolliffe had looked at the compost bins which were half full. It was agreed to combine all current compost into one bin and start a fresh one. A notice to this effect would be put on the bin so people knew which one to use.

Clerk to research big society dates

11. CONSIDER DATE OF NEXT MEETING

To be arranged nearer March 2020. Dates to be circulated

There being no further business the meeting closed at 6.45p.m.

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Chairman

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Date