



The minutes of the Open Spaces Working Party held at The Garden Room, All Saints Church, Gurnard on Wednesday 11 February 2015 at 7.00pm.

PRESENT: Councillor Fuller (Chair), Councillor McKean

Community Representatives: Pat Abrook, Fred Cows, Ben Cooke, Martin Bilson, Joyce Martin, Georgina Austin, Guy Boorman

6 APOLOGIES

There were apologies for absence were received from Jon Pearson (now resigned), Richard Cobden, Vern Morris, Carole Parker and Jenny Schofield.

7 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

8 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 26 November 2014 were approved and signed by the chairman.

9 DECISION FROM THE ISLE OF WIGHT COUNCIL

Councillor Fuller confirmed that the IW Council has formally agreed to dispose of the lease to the playing field and orchard of the former Gurnard Parish Council for 125 years at a peppercorn rent.

10 NEXT STEPS

Everyone was asked for their ideas on how to use the space given the covenant on the land. Most ideas centered round providing an "open space" for community use but also to provide a community growing scheme and wild flower meadow. Sports Field, play equipment and an adult outdoor gym were also mentioned. Dog walking was also mentioned, but, it was decided that at this stage, dog walking would not be encouraged by the installation of a dog waste bin. After lots of discussion, it was agreed to provide a "phased approach".

Step One: gain access to the site for visit

Step Two: request a survey of the trees in the orchard to see which trees can be salvaged after being left for so long.

Step Three: speak to Terry Butcher about his kind offer to cut the field.

Step Four: improve the access

Step Five: consider the planting of wild flower seeds to turn part of the playing field into a meadow.

Step Six: consider starting a Community Growing Scheme in the Orchard.

Step Seven: consider sport/leisure activities for part of the playing field.

Therefore it was:

RECOMMENDED:

- 1) **Arrange for the lease to be signed**
- 2) **Arrange a site visit for members of the working party**
- 3) **Arrange a site visit for the IW Orchard Group to carry out a survey of the trees.**
- 4) **Contact Mr T Butcher about a regular cut of the grass on the playing field**
- 5) **Advise the Parish Council's insurers of the addition of the land once the lease is signed.**

11 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

It was agreed that the date of the next meeting will be arranged after the site visits.

The meeting closed at 7.45 pm

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Chairman