

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE PARKS AND OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE  
OF TAWSTOCK PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON  
THURSDAY 11<sup>th</sup> APRIL 2024 AT 4.00 p.m.**

**Present: -** Councillor Bowden (Chair)  
Councillors Jenkins, Knight, Lofthouse and Needham.

M Isaac (Clerk)

Also present: Lewis Evely, Grounds Maintenance Contractor

**In Attendance:** Parishioner/Members of the Public – None

**1. APOLOGIES**

There were no apologies.

**2. MINUTES**

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 9<sup>th</sup> January 2024 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

**3. ITEMS BROUGHT FORWARD AT THE DISCRETION OF THE CHAIR AS A MATTER OF URGENCY**

a) Burial Ground – Overgrown Trees. The Clerk reported that it had been reported that trees in the burial were overgrown. It was agreed Councillors undertake a visit of the burial ground with the contractor to view the trees.

b) Tower View Recreation Ground

It was noted that pursuant to minute 6 of the Committee meeting on 9<sup>th</sup> January 2024 that there was s106 funding still to be drawn down from North Devon Council for the Tower View Recreation Area.

It was agreed that a quote be sought from TK Play for an extension of the play area and purchase of additional equipment and then an application made to draw down the remaining s106 funding.

**4. GROUNDS MAINTENANCE CONTRACT – ELIZABETH DRIVE TOP CORNER**

It was agreed that no changes be made to the grounds maintenance contract in respect of the Elizabeth Drive top corner in the current year but that prior to next year of the contract consideration be given to provision of a wildflower area.

**5. ADOPTION/MAINTENANCE OF FURTHER DEVON COUNTY COUNCIL OWNED RESIDENTIAL AREAS.**

a) Tudor Drive – Verges

RECOMMENDED that Lewis Evely be requested to provide a quote to cut the shrubs in the three verges and the area added to the Grounds Maintenance Contract.

Councillor Lofthouse declared an interest in the above matter as his son undertook such work.

b) Elizabeth Drive – Small Corner Area

Councillor Jenkins reported that the resident who cut this small area was now unable to do so. He had contacted DCC who owned the area who had agreed to assess the area and the overhanging tree.

**RECOMMENDED:**

- i) that subject to the views of DCC Lewis Evely be requested to provide quote to cut the area on 8 occasions a year with the option of 4 additional cuts as and when required by the Parish Council and the are included in the grounds maintenance contract.
- ii) that additional residential areas be considered for inclusion in the grounds maintenance contract as and when required.

**6. TUDOR PARK**

Councillor Needham reported that residents had expressed concern that the gate to the park was not being locked and the unsocial behaviour of young people in the park. They had stated that they had not been consulted. The Chair stated that she and Councillor Knight had visited residents and a letter distributed of all households previously undertaken. Resident volunteers had been sought to open and close the park but none had come forward.

Councillor Needham stated that his telephone number was still on the notice fixed to the gate. Councillor Jenkins agreed to remove the notice.

It was agreed:

- a) That a new laminated Parish Council headed notice be erected with the Council email contact details and a QR code specific to Tudor Park.
- b) That the Clerk draft a letter to all residents in Tudor Drive and Grange Avenue advising that Parish Council would not be opening and closing the Park but seeking resident volunteers to come forward to do so. Councillor Bowden agreed to print the letters and Councillor Needham agreed to do the deliver them.

**7. TOWER VIEW RECREATION AREA**

- a) Provision of new native trees for the central bank – supply and planting.

Councillor Lofthouse declared an interest in the above matter but reported that his son had a supply of approximately 40 free hedging trees that he could plant at a cost of £20 per hour along the central bank.

It was considered that bank should be built up first and earth from the bottom of the bank on the play area side removed and placed on top of the bank prior to the planting of any trees.

It was agreed:

- i) That a quote be sought from Lewis Evely to build up the bank and move earth from the bottom of the bank on the play area side and placed it on the top of the bank during the summer.
- ii) That the trees be planted in the Autumn.

b) Bottom Bank

That a quote be sought from Lewis Evely to spray and purchase and plant seeds in the bottom wildflower area. The seeds to be of good quality and variety of colours. A bird scarer was also suggested.

c) Top Wildflower Area.

That a quote be sought from Lewis Evely to remove the plantain and strim the front of the wildflower area.

## **8. ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING**

a) Tower View and Tudor Play Areas – Cleaning of Play Equipment

b) Tower View – Provision of solar powered lights and cameras.

Chair the meeting ended at 5.08 p.m.