

FPRA Committee Meeting Minutes - 15 February 2021

Starting at 19:30 hrs, and held on Zoom.

Attendees: Nick Reynolds (NR); Ray Robbins (RR); Barrie Dack (BD); Steve Carrington (SC); Mike Glenister (MG); Kerstie Wastell (KW)

Neil Inman (NI) and Karen Chiswell-Williams from Scanlans also attended.

Apologies received from Lee Abbott (LA)

Agenda

1	Matters arising - not dealt with elsewhere in this agenda - from minutes of meeting of Tuesday 23 November 2020	NR
2	Communications	BD
3	Landscape, ground works and maintenance - Contract renewal - The 3 year contract for Hislop & Co. Horticulture is due to expire in September 2021, and a discussion was had as to whether it was necessary to go through a process to appoint/re-appoint a contractor for the grounds maintenance. It was felt that Hislop's had provided a very good standard of maintenance. It was also felt that with the transfer to a new management company, that the decision should best be with the new directors. It was therefore decided that the contract should roll over and no new process was required. - Tree replacement - Planting of the replacement trees should go ahead 16/2/21. Previous attempts had to be cancelled due to the weather.	NR
4	Play Area equipment maintenance - update The latest maintenance report had been in a new format, with each individual piece of equipment being photographed. This is a positive improvement that has been fed back to Playground Facilities. There were no concerns raised in the latest report. A discussion was had about the Covid-19 safety issues and keeping the play areas open. It was felt that FPRA had correctly followed the governments guidance and had put in place measures, including signs, to keep the play areas open and maintain public safety.	NR
5	Entrance Canopy Tesco'e/Urban Park - update Following Scanlans being asked to withdraw their last application due to the wrong type of application being submitted on the advice of CBC, Scanlans have resubmitted the application. Unfortunately CBC planning have declined the application for several reasons not least being that the Urban Park does not have an exact postal address. CBC have also decided to change the format for submitted plans. Action: KCW to forward details to NR. NR to approach CBC Ward Councillor Steve Dixon and see what needs to be done to get the planning application accepted.	NR / KCW

6	Shelter belts - Annual Tree Survey - an update RGS completed the survey last year, and Apex Trees have been instructed to carry out the recommended works, along with obtaining the permission of CBC Tree Officer.	NR
7	Management transfer, roads adoption There has been no movement to report.	NR
8	Rentcharge: budget, accounts, cash flow - Access to Reports - Receipt by residents of the latest rent charge demand letters had again been problematic. Scanlans are working with their accounts department to resolve this.	NR / KCW
9	Inclusive play equipment - The recommendation was to award the contract to Setter Play. There will be a consultation of residents, taking the form of an outdoor session in the Urban Park. The financial arrangements are being finalised, but all the funds are in place.	LA
10	Woodland Trust Tree planting - All 420 samplings have now been planted. The majority were by the volunteer residents, but also by Hislop's. Thank you to Silke Gruner for organising this project.	NR
11	Urban Park Market - the use of the market continues to develop, with a latest food offering that started last Tuesday. The Now Now South African Food Company will be present on a Tuesday. Maintenance - due to the use of the market place and the weather, the area has become rutted and muddy. When the area was constructed there was no plan for ongoing maintenance put in place. There was a discussion as to whether the vendors should contribute to the maintenance, but it was felt that they had made a significant positive impact on the lives of residents that this would be considered for 2022. It was agreed that the first thing to do is to decide on what maintenance is required and to obtain quotes. Action - NR to approach CSA and Hislop's for their input.	NR
12	Planning - East of Arlesey - the committee was updated with the latest on this. The government planning inspectors have agreed that there should be no further development between Fairfield and the gas pipeline. This is at the consultation stage. FPC are putting forward suggestions for how the land can be used going forward. There is still the possibility that Vistry can appeal this decision. - S.4 Permitted Development Rights - The application by FPC to have this removed for the whole of Fairfield was agreed by CBC. All property owners will need to submit a planning application to develop their homes. This should lead to developments following the Neighbourhood Plan and Fairfield Design Statement.	BD / NR
13	Western Shelter Belt path improvements The committee was informed of the ongoing project by FPC to improve the condition of the unsurfaced section that runs north from Livingstone Way. FPC has consulted with CBC Rights of Way, BRCC and Etonbury Green Wheel. It has been made clear the	NR

	<p>concerns of residents at the last time that this was suggested. The feedback is that the path can be upgraded without the need to raise the height of the path/bridal way. The committee will be kept informed of any developments.</p> <p>The issue was raised of a particularly muddy and flooded part of the bridal way outside No.25. It was decided to explore the possibility of installing a french drain to deal with the issue, especially as the installation of a french drain on the eastern shelter belt had proven successful.</p> <p>Action: NR to approach Hislop's to see if it is possible to install a french drain.</p>	
14	<p>New Trees for Connelly Lane - Magnolias</p> <p>A resident had approached the FPRA asking if it would be possible to plant some trees on the piece of FPRC land adjoining their property. The resident would like to plant a particular tree, magnolias, and are willing to pay for the tree planting. LA and NR met with the resident and agreed in principle. Magnolia trees are substantially more expensive than the normal trees that would be planted around Fairfield. It was questioned why no trees were planted at this location, and a survey will need to be completed to see if there are any pipes or cables that would restrict or stop any tree planting. It was suggested that FPRC should pick up the 'usual' cost of the trees with the remainder being paid by the resident.</p> <p>Action: NR to make enquires to get a survey produced.</p>	LA / NR
15	<p>Christmas Tree in the Urban Park</p> <p>Following the annual complaints received about the cedar tree in the centre of the Urban Park and it's suitability to be used as a Christmas Tree, there are suggestions that a Christmas Tree be set up separately on the stage and decorated accordingly. The committee felt that we should not give up on the cedar tree and that it should be afforded every opportunity to grow.</p>	NR / LA
16	<p>Planning - Position to be filled? - With the absence of a committee member looking after this portfolio, and the FPRA being a statutory consultee by CBC/FPC for all planning applications. Both Mike Glenister and Kerstie Wastell have agreed to perform this role.</p> <p>Action: NR to inform FPC Clerk</p>	NR
17	<p>General Meeting</p> <p>There has been little take up by residents wanting to attend the meeting. All committee members to publicise the meeting further. SC to put message on Facebook.</p>	NR
18	AOB - no further issues.	NR