

SOUTH BRENT PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of a meeting of the Open Spaces Committee held on 19th September 2011, at 7.30 pm in The Old School Centre, Totnes Road, South Brent.

Open Forum for discussion with members of the public

Nothing was raised.

OS 1-9-11 Record of members present

Cllr Peter Kelly in the Chair, Cllrs Mark Copleston, Greg Wall and Donald Wiseman; and Julia Willoughby clerk to the Council was in attendance

OS 2-9-11 Apologies for absence

Apologies have been received from Cllrs Mandy Haley and Donna Warne.

OS 3-9-11 Declarations of interest (nature and extent) with regard to items on the agenda

None declared.

OS 4-9-11 Public participation session with respect to items on the agenda

Nothing was raised.

OS 5-9-11 Confirmation of minutes of the last meeting and report any matters arising – for information only

Minutes of the last meeting were confirmed and signed.

OS 6-9-11 Progress with plans for a pedestrian crossing in Station Road (incorporating cycle racks)

Mr I James – DCC Engineer has advised the following:

- Cost using tarmac (black top) rather than granite setts would reduce the cost by £5,000 – but is unlikely to be acceptable to DNPA.
- A coloured area of road surface to show the pedestrian crossing may not be acceptable to DNPA, but would cost £450 to surface dress the existing road.
- Kerb stones at road level to minimize difficulties for large vehicles would not pass the safety audit, and the design allows a single decker bus or HGV to exit the junction even with vehicles parked opposite (alongside the Mare & Foal charity shop).
- Cycle racks could be located on any of the of build-out areas.

DNPA will be asked to comment.

OS 7-9-11 Vicarage Road Allotment Association: update

Cllr Mandy Haley advised that Mr M Goss, Chairman of VRAA has been working on a planning application for sheds and a greenhouse at the allotment field.

OS 8-9-11 Consider the pros and cons of leasing the Station Yard car park

The clerk advised that as well as considering the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats any proposals must be widely broadcast to parishioners.

Costs will include insurance, business rates and maintenance, so that although parking could be free there would be ongoing annual costs.

Also, the road is privately owned, but has public access. Investigations will be made and this item will be carried forward to the next agenda.

OS 9-9-11 Consider registration of land by the Parish Council where issues have arisen e.g. adjacent to the steps between Clobells and Plymouth Road

Land Registry has contacted local councils to ensure that land and property is registered. The clerk reported that the play area at Sanderspool Cross is now registered, as are all other parcels of land owned by the council. If an area is not registered, a £40 fee would have to be paid, and an application made with as much information as possible for Land Registry to make a decision. Other interested parties would be contacted, and if the issue was disputed the applicant would incur the legal costs.

The Committee considers that it is not worth registering the Queen Mothers' garden (in Clobells) on its own; a list of locations will be compiled to include Clobells steps, footway outside Royal Oak Cottages and footway between Heather Park and Courtenay Park,

OS 10-9-11 Grounds maintenance update

A complaint sent via SHDC will be passed directly to the contractor; no other matters.

OS 11-9-11 Railway Wood: report dates of inspections carried out, and plan future inspections

Inspections of Railway Wood: Sept – MC (all fine); Oct – GW; Nov- DWi; Dec – PK; Jan – GW; Feb - MC.

OS 12-9-11 Play area at Sanderspool Cross: update

An inspection of the play area earlier this year revealed numerous 'category B' defects, which do not require immediate attention. SHDC will be asked for an itemised quote to deal with these matters. A query will also be raised with the parish council's insurers regarding reinstatement insurance.

OS 13-9-11 Consider any works required on the bus shelters

Mr Illman the Parish Handyman will be asked for a quote to refurbish the bus shelter opposite the London Inn in 2012-13.

OS 14-9-11 Report any works required to seats and benches maintained by the Council

The following will be reported to Mr Illman:

Bench at Cornsclose is overgrown;

Bench near Deanbrook, Totnes Road name plate removed – risk of splinters;

Entrance to Chapel Fields – consider replacing this seat next year.

OS 15-9-11 Any items for the next agenda, and the date of the next meeting

During the meeting the Committee agreed that a budget request of £2,000 would be made for 2012-13.

The next meeting will be held on 9 January.

The meeting closed at 8.43 p.m.