

SOUTH BRENT PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of a meeting of the Open Spaces Committee held on 16th January 2012, at 7.30 pm in The Old School Centre, Totnes Road, South Brent.
The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Open Forum for discussion with members of the public
Nothing was raised.

OS 1-1-12 Record of members present

Cllr Peter Kelly in the Chair, Cllrs Mark Copleston, Mandy Haley, Greg Wall, Donna Warne and Donald Wiseman; District Councillor Cathie Pannell and Julia Willoughby clerk to the Council were in attendance

OS 2-1-12 Apologies for absence
None.

OS 3-1-12 Declarations of interest (nature and extent) with regard to items on the agenda
None declared.

OS 4-1-12 Public participation session with respect to items on the agenda
Nothing was raised.

OS 5-1-12 Confirmation of minutes of the last meeting and report any matters arising – for information only
Minutes of the last meeting were confirmed and signed.
Mr Illman will be asked for a quote for refurbishing the bus shelter opposite the London Inn.

OS 6-1-12 Progress with a pedestrian crossing in Station Road (incorporating cycle racks).

It is hoped that this proposal will be implemented before 31 March 2012. Mr Halliday has asked how much the Parish Council can contribute: the Committee recommends that **£10,400 is contributed by the Parish Council towards the new 'Jubilee' crossing (£12,500 earmarked reserves less £2,100 design fees).**

OS 7-1-12 Vicarage Road Allotment Association: update

The planning application for sheds and a greenhouse at the allotment field is complete and will be submitted tomorrow.

OS 8-1-12 Consider whether leasing the Station Yard car park could be practical

A preliminary budget meeting of the 32 Scrutiny Panel members took place on 12.1.12 at SHDC. A great deal of discussion took place regarding the introduction of parking charges for the Station Yard car park. A recommendation will be made to the Executive that parking charges do not go ahead in 2012-13, but all 17 non-paying car parks in the South Hams (including Follaton House) will be reviewed and proper consideration given to local economic factors.

The Executive will meet on 26.1.12 to decide the matter (Cllr Greg Wall will attend again). The car park has 42 spaces, and it would be useful to track the fluidity of movement of vehicles.

The Committee recommends **further investigation into the costs including insurance, business rates and maintenance, and whether SHDC will consider a lease of the Station Yard to the Parish Council.**

OS 9-1-12 Consider registration of land by the Parish Council where issues have arisen e.g. adjacent to the steps between Clobells and Plymouth Road

The Committee considers that it is not worth registering the Queen Mothers' garden (in Clobells) on its own, and the Parish Council has not been asked to adopt any areas where ownership is unknown.

(A hedge between Heather Park and Courtenay Park is owned by SWW.)

People are still concerned about the oak tree near Clobells steps which is subject to a TPO, but ownership of the land is unknown. **The Parish Council could have works carried out on the oak tree near Clobells steps without registering the land. Mr Beasley at DNPA will be contacted for an up-to-date report on the health of the tree.**

OS 10-1-12 Grounds maintenance update

During the autumn the contractor cut the hedge at the play area, the height will be checked – as it should be at fence level.

OS 11-1-12 Railway Wood: report dates of inspections carried out, and plan future inspections

Inspections of Railway Wood: December – all fine; Cllr Greg Wall will look this week.

The clerk is due to meet a representative of Sustainable South Brent to discuss maintenance of the area on site later this week. The Committee agreed the wood should be left for wildlife, including fallen boughs etc.

Future inspections: Mar – DWa; Apr – DWi; May – MH; June – GW; Jul - PK; Aug – MC; Sept - DWa.

OS 12-1-12 Play area at Sanderspool Cross: update

The infant multi play equipment has been subjected to further damage; all three platforms have been smashed through. SHDC will be sending on a quote for repairs, but this is the item of equipment which is not expected to last much longer (according to the inspector), although it is popular with children and parents.

The Committee recommends that **due to vandalism the play area is locked each evening and unlocked in the morning**; the clerk will seek advice from the Police.

The toilet can be steam cleaned by SHDC for around £75, and a second hand wall gate can be provided, cleaned, fitted and commissioned for around £1,000-1,500; both need to be considered by the Parish Council.

OS 13-1-12 A pavement mounted seat at the Old School Centre needs to be moved to a new location.

Mr Illman will be asked whether the seat is worth refurbishing.

OS 14-1-12 Consider any works required on the bus shelters

The Millennium shelter will be painted to cover up graffiti.

OS 15-1-12 Any items for the next agenda, and the date of the next meeting

The next meeting will be held on 2 April.

The meeting closed at 8.45 p.m.