

Minutes of a meeting of the Parks Committee
Held on 29 October 2013

Present:- Cllrs. W. Jefferson, G. Wilkinson & I. Baty. Also Wendy Jameson, Ken Wannop and Anna Malina.

580 **Apologies:-** Cllrs. A.J. Markley & S. Graham. Also Jennifer Rowlands.

581 **Declarations of Interest**
None.

582 **Exclusion of Press & Public**
None

583 **Minutes**
RESOLVED THAT the minutes of the meeting held on 11 June 2013 are agreed and signed as a true record.

584 **Adjournment of Meeting**
There had been no requests from members of the public to speak at the meeting.

585 **Park Managers Report**
Complaints have been received about poisonous Black Nightshade having been found on the Green. The plant is prevalent everywhere and is not as dangerous as it was feared. Ken has sought advice on the matter and is also waiting to hear from DEFRA. Ken has a spraying certificate and spraying logs are kept. The amount of spraying undertaken has reduced every year. Only 1.5 lt of chemicals were used this year. The Rose Garden was sprayed this year because it was full of twitch and the only way of getting rid of it is by spraying. Grass cutting has relaxed now. The shrub beds have been dug out, apart from one and bark has been spread on them.

586 **Silloth Green – update**
a) Community Garden – Moota have come back with a more detailed design. HLF have given their approval for Moota to do the landscaping, as long as the work comes in under £10k. £1308.01 left in the budget which could be used for mosaics etc. An application has gone in to Hellrigg Community Fund to cover the cost of a story telling chair and sensory equipment. It was suggested that the opening ceremony for the garden could take place on Silloth Green Day. Bill Allison's wife is to confirm if she is agreeable to the suggestion of a bench dedicated to Bill.
b) Signage – Costs have come in from Broxap. The signs are the least attractive out of the three. A guy from Border signs is coming to have a look at what is needed in early November. Fitzpatrick Woolmer seem to be the preferred design by HLF. There may be some funding left for some interpretation in the Pagoda. Anna has enough information to write a brief and get proper tenders sent out. A sign is needed at the Splash Pad directing people to the doctors in case of emergency.
c) BMX Track – Official opening 14 December. The contractors are on site and have got the track marked out today and should be there for 2 ½ weeks. The Clan (display team) are coming to do a performance at the opening event which can be cancelled if the weather is poor. Silloth Green BMX track logo has been created. Hoodies are being made and the kids will be given fish and chips on the day which is being paid from BMX funds. Climbing wall is also coming. Kids have waited a long time for this.

587 **Friends of the Green**
They are in the process of organising Silloth Green Day for 25 May and waiting to hear if Fake Festival will be going ahead, as if they have the use of the marquee on the Sunday it will save them

£1600. The group are keen to get things done. HLF were keen for the formation of a Friends group which is a lot more active now, with a core of 10 people who are very involved. There is no membership fee. Anna is encouraging them to look for funding through sponsorship.

588 Correspondence

- a) Allerdale Borough Council – re: Dog fouling. A stencil can be applied to footpaths, lanes, pavements etc to highlight to dog walkers that no excuse for not picking up after their dog and if caught they will face a fine of up to £1000. Suggested locations required. A further email has been received to say they have not found a paint suitable for doing the stencils and therefore it was agreed that no action be taken.
- b) Letter from Mr W Allan in response to letter of 18 October and raising further questions in relation to the Green. It was considered whether the ground could be levelled, taller shrubs removed and the low growing shrubs put back or to remove the bed completely and re-turf the area. It was agreed that a site meeting be held at 10.00am tomorrow with Mr Allan to discuss the matter the further.
- c) Letter from Anne Lathan in relation to the toxic plants on Silloth Green. Reply to be sent to Mrs Lathan. Staff are vigilant at all times and the safety of children and vulnerable groups is of paramount importance to the Council.
- d) Anonymous letter in relation toxic plants on the Green, the footpaths and the Criffel Street market. Letter is anonymous and therefore the Council are unable to reply to it.

589 Public Conveniences

Following receipt of the schedule of work planned to the Criffel Street toilet, the Parks Committee agreed that a copy of the surveyors report carried out in 2010 be sent to Allerdale Borough Council as it identifies additional work that may be required to bring the toilets up to standard, prior to the Town Council taking over responsibility for the buildings.

590 Charges for events etc on the Green

It was previously agreed by the Council that a charge of £100 would be made per event. No charge to be made for local events organised by local people, such as the Vintage Rally, Beer Festival etc.

591 Draft Policy with regard to electricity usage on the Green

The Clerk had drafted a policy in relation to electricity usage on the Green which was considered by the Parks Committee. It was agreed and therefore recommended that it be adopted by the Town Council.

Signed..... Date.....