

**MINUTES OF PARKS' COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON
Wednesday 20th January, 2010 at 7:00pm in Suite B, Council Offices, Holsworthy**

Present: Cllrs. R. Kennedy, R. Brown, L. Latty, P. Johns E. Squire and R. Buckingham
Town Clerk in attendance
Mr. Martin Beagley, Tree Preservation Officer, Torridge District Council
Mr. Chris Moore, Managing Director, Plandscape

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Apologies for absence

None received.

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Declaration of Interests

The Chairman asked members to declare their interests for items on the Agenda as and when they arose.

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Minutes of last Meeting

It was proposed by Cllr. Squire that the Minutes of the previous Meeting held on 21st October 2009, having been agreed and ratified at the Meeting of the full Council on 4th November, 2009 be signed as a true and accurate record, this was seconded by Cllr. Buckingham and agreed. (5 For, 0 Against, 0 Abstentions) The minutes were duly signed by the Chairman, Cllr. Kennedy.

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Matters Arising: There were no matters arising.

Cllr. Latty proposed that Standing Orders be suspended in order for the guests at the meeting to speak. This was seconded by Cllr. Squire and agreed unanimously. (5 For, 0 Against, 0 Abstentions)

5

To Discuss the Planting of Trees at Badock Gardens with Mr. Martin Beagley, Tree Preservation Officer, Torridge District Council.

Mr. Beagley explained that he was present to talk about replacement trees for Badock Gardens, following the felling of the Beech trees. He explained that the Council needed to think whether they wished to replace like for like. Planting more Beech trees would keep continuity, however, there could be diseases hanging around in the soil which could infect the new trees.

Cllr. Kennedy expressed concern regarding the size the trees will grow to, especially with the surrounding housing development, and asked what alternatives there were.

Mr. Beagley advised choosing trees that will grow to a reasonable height and suggested Lime trees as they grow to a good height but do not overly spread, especially if pruned regularly. Birch is a possibility and is slow growing; English Oak would be nice, it is a robust tree and slow growing, however, it does not prune well. Medium sized ornamental trees would also look nice, such as Red Maple and Tulip trees and Alder trees are 'bomb proof'. Mr. Beagley recommended the planting of Limes at the front of the gardens between the existing trees, but further back, as they should fill the gaps quite nicely. He added that it is important to replace all the trees that had been felled and perhaps add some more. This strategy would take into account trees that would need to be felled in the future, for example an Alder could be planted behind the Hornbeam which has a limited lifespan left.

Cllr. Richard Brown arrived 7.05pm.

The size of the trees to be planted was then discussed. Mr. Beagley recommended container grown trees in size 8-10 should do fairly well. The approximate cost for such trees would be £70 - £80 per tree. He also recommended the use of strimmer guards to protect the trees as strimmer accidents were common.

Cllr. Kennedy proposed that the Parks' Committee devise a plan, detailing the trees to be planted and their location, which can then be forwarded to Mr. Beagley for his comments and recommendations. It was agreed to do this at the February Parks' meeting. The Town Clerk was instructed to invite Mr. Drew to the meeting.

Cllr. Kennedy thanked Mr. Beagley for attending the meeting, adding that his input had been very helpful.

Mr. Beagley left the meeting.

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To Discuss with Mr. Chris Moore, Managing Director, Plandscape, his Quotation for the Grounds Maintenance of Stanhope Park.

Cllr. Kennedy introduced Mr. Moore and discussions ensued regarding the Stanhope Park specification and Mr. Moore’s quotation. Mr. Moore confirmed that the Council’s specification was a good medium specification which covers everything, he added that flexibility would come down to a close working relationship with the Council.

Mr. Moore also advised the Council that care should be taken when selecting a species of Lime tree for Badock Gardens as one particular variety is prone to attract aphids. He recommended the planting of Tilia Euchlora and said he was able to pass on the details of the company he purchases trees from.

Cllr. Kennedy thanked Mr Moore for attending the meeting and answering Councillors’ questions.

Mr Moore left the meeting.

Cllr. Squire proposed the meeting return to Standing Orders, this was seconded by Cllr. Brown and agreed unanimously. (6 For, 0 Against, 0 Abstentions)

The Clerk advised that she had checked with Mr. Andrew Waite at T.D.C. and the current parks maintenance contract could be amended or cancelled at any time.

Cllr. Kennedy proposed that a recommendation be made to the full Council to appoint the grounds maintenance, at Stanhope Park, for the financial year 2010-2011, to Plandscape. This was seconded by Cllr. Squire and agreed unanimously. (6 For, 0 Against, 0 Abstentions)

7

Stanhope Park

The Clerk advised the Committee that EDF Energy have increased their electricity charges and introduced a standing charge for the supply to the Street Light in Stanhope Park. Having carried out lengthy investigations, no other electricity provider is willing to provide electricity to the light because it is an unmetered supply. The Clerk has requested details of EDF tariffs in order to keep the costs down. However, the deals available are released on a Monday and only available for that week and are still considerably more expensive. After a short discussion Cllr. Latty proposed that a recommendation be made to Council to turn the street light off. This was seconded by Cllr. Kennedy and agreed. (6 For, 0 Against, 0 Abstentions)

The Clerk advised that just before Christmas damaged was sustained to the Pavilion, with the wooden supports on one side being removed leaving the porch roof dangerously sagging. Mr Drew was asked to attend and take the necessary steps to make it safe. After discussion regarding the poor state of the Pavilion the Clerk was instructed to investigate whether it was possible to demolition the building and if so the costs involved.

The light at Jubilee path is not working correctly and requires attention.

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Badock and Rowland Gardens

The Clerk advised that Operatives from Midas have attended Badock Gardens and have commenced work on the boundary bank.

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Clerk’s Report

The Clerk reported that work on the Recreational Strategy is going well and hopefully, with dedicated time, it should be in first draft form by the end of February.

10

Close

The meeting closed at 7.55pm

Signature

Dated