

COES MEADOW MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE



Minutes of a Public Meeting of the Coes Meadow Management Committee held on Wednesday 27th October starting at 11.00am via Zoom Video Conferencing

Present: Ms Emma Banks, Cllr Antonia Crawshay, Cllr Laurence Nichols, Cllr Christine Street
In the chair: Cllr Laurence Nichols
Secretary: Claire Waters

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

None. It was noted with regret the decision of Jess Soper to step down from the Coes Meadow Management Committee due to pressure of work. Her contribution had been enthusiastic and effective and will be missed.

2. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

RESOLVED: Cllr Laurence Nichols was elected as Chairman of the Committee

Proposed: Emma Banks

Seconded: Cllr Street

Agreed unanimously

3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS PUBLIC MEETING:

The minutes of the public meeting of Coes Meadow Management Committee held on 23rd August 2021 were approved as a correct record

Proposed: Cllr Crawshay

Seconded: Cllr Nichols

Agreed unanimously

4. PUBLIC FORUM

None

5. PROGRESS CHECK

Good progress had been made on a number of actions from the August meeting, including a successful volunteer working party and the booking of the basketball surface repair, with a BDC Councillors Community Grant award of £500 contributing to the cost of £800 + VAT

6. FINANCE

6.1. Current financial position: Unity Trust Bank Balance **£2,490.22** as at 27th October 2021

6.2. The accounts were approved. Cllr Street raised a question about the variation in grass cutting invoices across the year to date

Action: The clerk will send this year's grass cutting invoices to committee members

Action: The grass cutting schedule will be reviewed in case additional cuts are needed.

6.3. Budget – Parish Council & Coes Meadow. Cllr Nichols is reviewing the accounts from the last 2 years in preparation for the annual budget review at Bulmer Parish Council. It was agreed a Coes Meadow budget should be prepared for the 2022-2023 financial year and beyond.

7. PLAY EQUIPMENT SAFETY INSPECTION 2021

To review RoSPA report from October 2021 inspection and decide on priority actions to be taken.

Action: No report had yet been received despite being chased up. Item postponed.

8. S106 FUNDING & GRANT APPLICATIONS

8.1. Update on current grant applications. A BDC Councillors Community Grant of £500 towards the basketball surface repair was noted with thanks to District Councillor Wendy Scattergood. An ECC CIF Fund grant for a boules pitch and picnic area should be decided in December. I

8.2. Decision on future priority projects for grant or S106 funding

Action: Cllr Nichols will forward goalpost and net quotes to the clerk for the S106 application.

9. MAINTENANCE AND UPKEEP

9.1. Report from recent working party and Stour Valley & Dedham Vale AONB volunteers work
Emma Banks reported a successful morning working party with a great deal achieved and a good turnout. The need to strike a reasonable balance between the conservation recommendations and what nearby residents want to do was discussed, and it was agreed that working in co-operation is the ideal – for example along Limes Avenue keeping the side nearest the houses tidy and leaving the opposite side more natural.

Vermin: Complaints about rats had been raised. It was noted that fruit trees and chicken feed are likely to be a contributing factor

Tree work: A tree planning application has been submitted to Braintree Planning, with some of the work to be carried out by volunteers and the Lime Walk pollarding to be carried out by G Nicholl, who will also be asked to clear away any wood left after the Stour Valley & Dedham Vale Volunteers work in February next year. Some ash die back is noted but not sufficiently serious for the trees to need replacing.

BDC free trees & bulbs: Emma had also submitted an application for 400 free bulbs and 50 trees. They are expected to be available in November. Bulb and tree planting locations were discussed, including the possibility of offering free trees to residents if suitable locations cannot be found.

Action: Next working party will be arranged when bulbs and trees have arrived

Action: Scheduled dates for working parties will be advertised in WhatsOn as well as noticeboards and the Facebook page.

9.2. Annual Schedule of tasks – to review and update

Action: An Excel template to be sent to all members, who will contribute their suggestions for annual tasks to be scheduled e.g play area maintenance jobs

9.3. Further tree work, ground work and maintenance actions needed.

Action: It was noted that there was some confusion about the ownership of the path to the church, but it is confirmed that this is part of Coes Meadow. Cllr Nichols will write a letter to residents.

Action: A volunteer playground inspection course is occasionally available through the Essex Association of Local Councils. Cllr Nichols would be interested to attend if possible.

10. FUNDRAISING

To decide on any fundraising events to be held at Coes Meadow. It was agreed that for the time being the focus would be on the Queens Jubilee event in June 2022 as a joint community event rather than specific fundraising.

Action: Cllr Street will liaise with the Village Hall committee, Bulmer Parish Council and Coes Meadow Management Committee about the joint co-ordination of the Queens Jubilee event.

11. AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING

- RoSPA Play area inspection report
- Boules pitch and picnic area project if ECC CIF grant application is successful in December
- Queens Jubilee plans

12. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Thursday 6th January 2022 (to be confirmed)

The meeting closed at 12 noon