

Bristol City Council

Minutes of the Public Rights of Way and Greens Committee



19 September 2016 at 2.00 pm

Members Present:-

Councillors: Peter Abraham (Chair), Tim Kent (Vice-Chair), Donald Alexander, Charlie Bolton, Chris Jackson, Mike Langley and Jon Wellington

Officers in Attendance:-

Tom Dunsdon (Solicitor), Duncan Venison (Network Operations Manager) and Louise deCordova (Democratic Services Officer)

1. Election of Chair 2016/17

Nominations received – Cllr Abraham.

Councillor Abraham was duly elected as Chair of Public Rights of Way and Greens Committee for 2016/17.

2. Election of Vice-Chair 2016/17

Nominations received – Cllr Kent.

Councillor Kent was duly elected as Vice- Chair of Public Rights of Way and Greens Committee for 2016/17.

3. Welcome, Introductions and Safety Information

The Chair led the welcome and introductions.

4. Membership of the committee

The membership of the Committee for the 2016/17 municipal year was noted as follows:-

Labour	Conservative	Green	Liberal Democrat
Cllr. Jackson Cllr. Alexander Cllr. Langley Cllr. Wellington	Cllr. Abraham	Cllr. Bolton	Cllr. Kent



5. Apologies for Absence and Substitutions

None received.

6. Declarations of Interest

Cllr. Kent referred to a previous interest in relation to Colston's School Playing fields (file number JD5.587) under Item 12. Current applications for registration of land as town or village greens; and confirmed that there was no longer an interest.

7. Terms of Reference

Resolved that the terms of reference of the Public Rights of Way and Greens Committee, as determined at the Annual Council meeting held on 31 May, 2016 be noted.

8. Meeting Dates

That the meeting dates for the 2016/17 Municipal Year be noted as follows:-

- Monday 12 December 2016, 2.00pm
- Monday 12 March 2017, 2.00pm

Councillors requested that quarterly meetings to monitor the progress of applications be scheduled for the next municipal year commencing in June 2017 after the Annual Full Council.

Actions:

- Officers to diarise June 2017 AGM date and provisional quarterly meeting dates for 2017/18.**

9. Minutes of Previous Meeting

Resolved that the Minutes of the Public Rights of Way and Greens Committee AGM held on 21 September 2015, be confirmed as a correct record.

10. Public Forum

None received.

11. Current claims, inquiries and miscellaneous rights of way matters

The Committee considered an information report of the Service Director for Transport, which outlined the present position with regard to claims under Section 53 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981; public inquiries; and miscellaneous rights of way orders, agreements and legal proceedings, presented by the Network Operations Manager.



The following points were raised in discussion:

- a. Members raised concern regarding claims 'awaiting investigation' from 2006.
- b. Delays in starting investigations were due to the requirement to prioritise claims as a result of development proposals.
- c. Potential changes in circumstances of any applicants, during this timeframe could make claims redundant or add additional layers of complexity.
- d. Additional resource has been recruited which should assist with progressing claims.
- e. Claims investigation varied in complexity, and could take investigators anything from 6 months to a year to complete. There may be specialist companies that could carry out this work at costs to the Council.
- f. Claim ID3.685 had been awaiting direction from DEFRA since 2008. Cllrs asked that this be chased for decision.

Actions:

- i. **Officers to contact all outstanding applicants to confirm current circumstances and commitment/eligibility to pursue the original claims.**
- ii. **Officers to include a map to identify outstanding claim sites**
- iii. **Officers to confirm the legal position regarding obligations to investigate should an applicant become deceased.**
- iv. **Officers to write to DEFRA to request a decision on claim ID3.685**
- v. **Officers to report outcomes of actions to the December meeting.**

12. Current applications for registration of land as town or village greens

The Committee considered an information report of the Commons Registration Authority, which outlined the present position with regard to Town or Village Green (TVG) applications duly made under the Commons Act 2006 and the annual external spend for TVG applications.

Stoke Lodge Playing Fields (JD5.450)

- a. Noted that the majority of the external spend circa £34k had been generated by activity on the Stoke Lodge application.
- b. It was anticipated that the Independent Inspector's Report will be available by the end of September 2016. The Chair requested that this was circulated to members when available.

Actions:

- i. **Officers to circulate the Inspectors Report to Members when available**
- ii. **Officers to provide an update report to the December meeting.**

Meeting ended at 2.30 pm

CHAIR _____

