

## **FULL COUNCIL – 14<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2011**

### **NOTES OF OPEN SESSION**

Mr Richard Pierson reported on an incident that had occurred on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> December at 8.30am. He said that four dogs were out of control on the Castleman Trailway; they had run into his field and then into an adjoining landowner's field, driving three deer and cattle round in circles. The deer had split up and one was followed by a dog onto the A31. The dog had been hit by a car and subsequently had to be put down. The dog owner in question had been present at the meeting of all parties on the Castleman Trailway the previous month.

He asked when the signs were going to be erected, both at Pocket Park and at the Raymond Brown Nature Reserve.

The Town Clerk replied that he was still waiting for a response from Natural England regarding the wording for the signs. However, he had today approved a final revision to the sign for the Raymond Brown Nature Reserve and hoped this would be erected prior to Christmas. In addition, Hampshire County Council would be providing signs for either side of the Maybridge and it was also hoped that these would also be in place by Christmas.

It was noted that it was vital that the wording on the signs was correct to enable the Police to enforce its powers.

The Town Clerk reported that the Police Country Watch Sergeant had investigated the incident reported by Mr Pierson and the dog owner had been reminded of her responsibilities.

He emphasised the fact that the Town Council had no statutory powers with regards to dogs, but had stepped in to mediate between all parties in resolving the issue.

Cllr Heron said that this incident, although unfortunate, was a clear indication that signage does not make responsible dog owners. He did not feel that signage would resolve the issue and felt instead that there was a need for the public to be educated. However, this was not the responsibility of the Town Council.

Cllr O'Reilly declared an interest in this issue as a dog owner. She said that there were many responsible dog owners and walkers and she hoped that they set a good example and could assist in improving relationships between all parties.