

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE ENVIRONMENT AND RECREATION
COMMITTEE HELD ON TUESDAY 11th JULY 2017 AT 7.30PM
AT THE TOWN HALL.**

PRESENT:

Cllr R Gell (Chairman)
Cllr D C Lawson MBE
Cllr P Tomas
Cllr A M T Reading
Cllr C O'Rourke
Cllr Mrs S Mantle
Cllr Mrs V Newbery
Miss A J Schofield (Assistant Town Clerk)

1. **APOLOGIES**

None.

2. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None.

3. **MINUTES**

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meeting held 23rd May 2017 be signed as being a true and accurate record.

4. **PUBLIC FORUM**

No public present.

5. **PATH ON OPEN SPACE TO REAR OF HENRY CHICHELE SCHOOL**

RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND:

That the sides of the path on the open space to the rear of Henry Chichele School are sprayed to kill the weeds and that works to the path are delayed until Phase 5 is completed. That action is taken to resolve the landslip/water run-off issue that is causing the problem with the path.

6. **CABIN ADJACENT TENNIS COURTS**

RESOLVED:

That the draft cabin design presented in the report be agreed. That the cabin be purchased from Company A at a price of £15,950 plus delivery at £600 plus £1,750 for access works, accepting Company A are not the lowest priced but that they have been to site and fully understand the requirements of the Council and have a potentially shorter lead time.

7. **SPORTS PAVILION**

RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND:

That a budget of £2,000 be set to cover architects fees and to allow initial sketches. That a working party be set up. The working party to consider the type of facilities and accommodation for a new/refurbished building and to review draft plans produced by the architect before they are presented to the committee and to work on the project going forward and between committee meetings. That the working party comprise Cllr R Gell, Cllr P Tomas, Cllr D Lawson, Cllr Mrs S Mantle, Cllr O'Rourke and the Clerk.

8. **PLAY AREAS AT THE LARKIN GARDENS DEVELOPMENT**

RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND:

That the Council proceed with negotiations for the adoption of play areas 1 and 2 in Larkin Gardens estate, subject to the suggested commuted sums of £15,000 for play area 1 and £30,000 for play area 2, to allow adoption to a standard acceptable to the Council. That the Clerk enter discussion with Rushden Town Council for play area 3 on the basis that it is preferable that play area 3 be managed by Rushden Town Council given that play area 3 is split by the border with Rushden Town Council and it is the smaller part that falls within Higham Ferrers.

9. **BOUNDARIES BETWEEN MUGA AND WHARF ROAD**

RESOLVED:

That anti-climb paint be applied to the top of the boundary wall with 22 Wharf Road, along with the necessary warning notices, to try to address the issue of people climbing into the private garden. That the situation be monitored and the committee consider other possible action in due course if the issue does not improve.

10. **CLERK'S REPORT**

Annual Play Area Inspections

The reports following the independent annual inspection of the 3 play areas identify items requiring attention with associated risk level. Members are asked to note the following:

- The level 13 loose fixings on the 1 bay flat swing, Villa Rise, was addressed immediately.
- The Tractor Climber at Saffron Road will require removal within the year due to metal corrosion of its main base unit. The tractor is an old Wicksteed piece of equipment which it, and any parts, are no longer manufactured so an alternative item of play equipment will be required.
- The Woodlands Unit at Saffron Road is scheduled for replacement in September.
- The Park Wardens are currently addressing the more general items identified and those that do not require a specialist contractor, including re-painting of metal equipment and rubbing down of wooden items on certain pieces of play equipment.
- An order has been placed with a playground company to address the specialised items, aside the skate park. The order includes replacement of the poorer condition wet pour sections at Saffron Road and Villa Rise, with other areas of wet pour identified in the report to be monitored for the time being.
- The repair to the riding surface crack on the skate park is to be addressed separately with cost to be obtained from the company who supplied it. The Park Wardens will address the other items identified for the Skate Park with advice being taken from the supply company for possible longer-term solutions regarding foundation exposure.

New Lisbon Play Unit

The Lisbon unit and trim trail to replace the woodlands equipment is scheduled for installation week commencing 11th September. Due to tight lead in times prior to the school summer holidays there was no guarantee the work would be complete prior to their start. To ensure we avoid the installation works during the peak of the summer holidays the work has been scheduled for September.

Replacement roundabout

The new roundabout has been installed.

11. **CLOSURE OF MEETING TO PUBLIC AND PRESS**

RESOLVED:

That in accordance with Section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 and by reason of the confidential nature of the following items of business, the Press and the Public be excluded from the meeting.

12. **CLERK'S REPORT, LEGAL UPDATE**

RESOLVED:

That the Town Clerk's Legal Update Report be received and noted.

13. **RE-OPEN THE MEETING TO THE PUBLIC AND PRESS**

RESOLVED:

That the confidential business having been concluded, the Press and Public be re-admitted to the meeting.

14. **PARISH PATHS WARDEN REPORT**

RESOLVED:

That the report from the Parish Paths Warden be received and noted.

15. **ITEMS TO REPORT**

None.

16. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

12th September 2017

Chairman

Date