

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE ENVIRONMENT AND RECREATION
COMMITTEE HELD ON TUESDAY 14th JULY 2020 AT 7.30PM
USING ZOOM VIDEO CONFERENCING**

PRESENT:

Cllr A M T Reading (Chairman)
Cllr Mrs P H Whiting
Cllr Mrs C Reavey
Cllr Mrs A Gardner
Cllr C O'Rourke
Cllr H L Jackson
Cllr N Brown
Miss A J Schofield (Assistant Clerk)
Mrs E Arrow (Administration and Communications Officer)

1. **ELECTION OF A CHAIRMAN**

RESOLVED:

That Cllr A M T Reading be elected as Chairman of the Environment and Recreation Committee for 2020/21.

2. **ELECTION OF A VICE-CHAIRMAN**

RESOLVED:

That Cllr C O'Rourke be elected as Vice-Chairman of the Environment and Recreation Committee for 2020/21.

3. **APOLOGIES**

None.

4. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Other Interests

Cllr Mrs P H Whiting – her Grandson and Son-in-Law play for the Higham and Rushden Cricket Club.

5. **MINUTES**

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meeting held 12th May 2020 be signed by the Chairman as being a true and correct record.

6. **PUBLIC FORUM**

None.

7. **TIMBER TRIM TRAIL AT CASTLE FIELDS**

The original design agreed by the Council does not meet with agreement from Historic England.

RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND:

That the revised timber trail design for Castle Fields consisting of 10 items be approved at a cost of £6736.

8. **REVIEW OF FEES FOR HIRE OF FACILITIES CONSIDERING THE IMPACT OF COVID-19**

RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND:

That

- The school be asked if they are likely to use the facilities in 2020/21 and a fee to be negotiated.
- A fee to be negotiated per match for the cricket club in the region of £45 a match.
- The Tennis Club fee be reviewed at the September meeting once likely usage until March 2021 is known.

9. **HIGH PRESSURE WASHING AND MOSS TREATMENT OF THE TENNIS COURTS**

RESOLVED:

That the Clerk enquire regarding the possibility of any damage to the courts from the pressure washing and also query if moss treatment is still a requirement if there is to be annual pressure washing.

10. **FENCING TO VILLA RISE PLAY AREA**

RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND:

That the wooden fence at Villa Rise play area be replaced with 1m high galvanised playsafe specification bow top fencing with a budget cost of £5975. Cost to be met from Section 106 monies held for maintenance of the play areas.

11. **HEDGE TO THE BOUNDARY OF 10 BEDE CLOSE**

RESOLVED:

That the residents of No 25 Bede Close be asked to move their wheelie bins from the open space to allow pedestrian passage between the houses and to allow the contractors access to the hedge for maintenance purposes.

12. **5 A SIDE FOOTBALL PITCH, SAFFRON ROAD RECREATION GROUND**

Improvement Works to the Pitch

RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND:

- 12.1. That works be undertaken to improve the 5 aside football pitch with the importation and grading of soil for seeding at a cost of £840.

12.2. **New Goals**

RESOLVED:

That the existing goals be retained and enquiry made with regard to the purchase or fabrication of sockets to allow them to become more portable. That the existing nets be removed from the goals to allow children to play in whichever direction they wish.

13. **TIMBER FROM THE CHOWNS MILL ROUNDABOUT FELLED OAK TREES**

RESOLVED:

That Council agree to the adoption of the carved seats offered from Highways England from the Chowns Mill roundabout felled oak trees. That the 3 seats carved from the 'Three Oaks' be located at Castle Fields. That the 4th seat be located at Nightingale Way play area.

14. **SAPLING FROM THE 3 OAKS TREE, CHOWNS MILL ROUNDABOUT**

RESOLVED:

That suggestion be made that Highways England be asked if they would plant a sapling from the 'Three Oaks' tree from the Chowns Mill roundabout on the Station Road part of the works in a suitable and secure location as near to the felled tree as practical. That consideration to planting other saplings be held off until the saplings are more fully developed.

15. **LITTER IN THE PARKS AND OPEN SPACES**

RESOLVED:

That due to the significant number of Covid-19 signs in the play areas and opens spaces additional specific litter signage is not considered appropriate at this time. That a social media campaign be undertaken to encourage responsible behaviour to reduce littering.

16. **PARISH PATHS WARDEN REPORT**

RESOLVED:

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

17. **ITEMS TO REPORT**

Cllr C O Rourke requested an agenda item to seek support for the placement of a litter bin on the High Street by Willow and Grey.

Cllr Mrs C Reavey requested an agenda item to consider planting of trees on Saffron Road recreation Ground to replace those felled.

18. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

15th September 2020

Chairman

Date