

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE ENVIRONMENT AND RECREATION
COMMITTEE HELD ON TUESDAY 22nd MAY 2018 AT 7.30PM
AT THE TOWN HALL.**

PRESENT:

Cllr R Gell (Chairman)
Cllr Mrs A Sauntson (as substitute for Cllr D C Lawson MBE)
Cllr H L Jackson
Cllr Mrs S Mantle
Cllr Mrs V Newbery
Cllr A M T Reading
Cllr J Smithers
Mrs S J Mitcham (Town Clerk)
Miss A J Schofield (Assistant Town Clerk)

1. **ELECTION OF A CHAIRMAN**

RESOLVED:

That Cllr R Gell be elected as Chairman of the Environment & Recreation Committee for 2018/19.

2. **APOLOGIES**

Cllr D C Lawson MBE.

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

RESOLVED:

That Cllr H L Jackson be elected as the Vice-Chairman of the Environment & Recreation Committee for 2018/19.

4. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None.

5. **MINUTES**

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meeting held 13th March 2018 be signed by the Chairman as being a true and correct record further to the addition of Cllr P Tomas to the list of those present at the meeting.

6. **PUBLIC FORUM**

None.

7. **REVIEW OF TENNIS CLUB FEES**

RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND:

That the fees for the Tennis Club be set at £650pa to be paid quarterly at the end of June, September, December and March. The fees to include Sunday morning club sessions all year round, Wednesday evening club sessions from May to middle of September, matches and coaching sessions. To be reviewed for 2019/20.

8. **PLAY AREA, MALLARD CLOSE/NIGHTINGALE WAY**

RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND:

8.1. That 2 single leaf galvanised metal pedestrian gates be installed at the Mallard Close Open

Space at a cost of £2,290.

8.2. **RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND:**

That the Clerk be delegated to compile a shortlist of the designs for the new play equipment at Mallard Close Open Space. That the shortlisted designs be taken to the Higham Ferrers Infant and Junior School and Henry Chichele Primary School for consultation with the school children. The Clerk to report back to the committee following the consultation with the schools.

9. **REMOVAL OF THE GARAGE, SAFFRON ROAD RECREATION GROUND
RESOLVED:**

That the ground to the front of the container be made good to allow the cricket club's diesel roller access, cost £340. That the Clerk obtain a price to repair the garage for presentation back to the Committee.

10. **ANNUAL PLAY AREA INSPECTION REPORTS
RESOLVED:**

- 10.1. That the Annual Play Area Inspection Reports be received and noted. That advice be sought from the Independent Play Inspector regarding the forms and process for the weekly play area inspections. That enquiry be made with regard to extended play area operational training for a member of staff.

RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND:

- 10.2. That the twin rocker piece of play equipment be purchased and installed at the Fitzwilliam Leys play area at a cost of £1,907 to replace the broken item that has been removed.

11. **CLERK'S REPORT**

Footpath Resurfacing, Saffron Road Recreation Ground

Raybell are scheduled to undertake the surfacing works on Wednesday 23rd May.

Skate Park

Additional quotes have now been received for the stone and top soil importation and compaction to make up the end banks to be overlain with bonded rubber mulch. Order for the work placed.

Regularisation of Occupied Land, Windermere Drive

Residents have been approached asking them to enter a 'Licence to Occupy'. To date only the residents of 1 of the 5 properties concerned have expressed an intention to enter a licence. The Licence is with them for signing.

Grounds Maintenance Consortium

There have been problems with the grass cutting due to the spell of cold weather at the start of the season followed by warm weather and rapid growth. In particular the first cut of the cricket pitch was late due to the weather with significant clumps of cuttings left on the pitch. Turneys had to cut the grass several times in succession and again on the morning of the match to try and dispel the cuttings. There are concerns regarding the standard of supervision of the contract and there needs to be thought going forward as to the best approach for grounds maintenance in the town bearing in mind the forthcoming formation of unitary authorities.

RESOLVED:

That the report from the Clerk be received and noted.

12. **PARISH PATHS WARDEN REPORT**

RESOLVED:

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

13. **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.

14. **GLEBE FARM**

RESOLVED:

That the Clerk's update on the legal situation be received and noted. That the Clerk contact the Solicitor regarding the next steps to be pursued in the legal case.

15. **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.

16. **ITEMS TO REPORT**

Cllr Mrs A Sauntson reported the weed growth along the footpath edges of saffron Road. The Clerk advised that the County Council are responsible for weed spraying and it will be reported to them.

17. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

10th July 2018.

Chairman

Date