

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE ENVIRONMENT AND RECREATION
ADVISORY COMMITTEE HELD ON TUESDAY 18th MAY 2021 AT 7.30PM
USING ZOOM VIDEO CONFERENCING**

PRESENT:

Cllr Mrs P H Whiting
Cllr Mrs C Reavey
Cllr P McCann
Cllr B Spencer
Cllr Mrs A Gardner (as substitute for Cllr Mrs J Bone)
Cllr A M T Reading (substitute pending co-option of a new councillor)
Mrs S J Mitcham (Town Clerk)
Miss A J Schofield (Assistant Clerk)

1. **ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN**

RESOLVED:

That Cllr Reading be elected as Chairman for the Advisory Committee.

2. **ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIRMAN**

RESOLVED:

That election be deferred to the next meeting which is expected to no longer be an Advisory Committee meeting.

3. **APOLOGIES**

Cllr Mrs J Bone

4. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Other Interests

Cllr B Spencer, item 10, Committee Member of the Higham Ferrers Angling Association.

5. **MINUTES**

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meeting held 16th March 2021 be received and noted.

6. **ANNUAL PLAY AREA INSPECTIONS**

RESOLVED:

That the Annual Play Area Inspection Reports and the Schedule of Works be received and noted.

7. **OUTDOOR TABLE TENNIS TABLE**

RESOLVED:

That enquiry be made with Rushden Town Council with regard to the level of use and their experiences surrounding the location of the table tennis table located in Spencer Park. That the Year 6 pupil be thanked for their letter and advised of the enquiries being made.

8. **SAFETY SURFACING AT SAFFRON ROAD PLAY AREA**

RESOLVED:

That 3 quotes be obtained to remove the existing wetpour and replace with bonded rubber mulch safety surfacing at the flat swings, see-saw and twin tower multi-play unit at Saffron Road play area.

9. **ORGANISED LITTER PICKS**

RESOLVED:

That given the tight timescales and staffing input required, participation in the Keep Britain Tidy spring clean campaign is not practical but that consideration of organised litter picks is scheduled for the September meeting when it is hoped social distancing restrictions are no longer in place and local groups will be back up and running as normal.

10. **MANAGEMENT OF RIVERSIDE PARK**

The Committee discussed at some lengths the on-going anti-social behaviour at Riverside Park. The issues were raised at the last JAG meeting. It is understood Higham Ferrers is due to be allocated a dedicated PC in about 15 weeks. The PCSO is to be kept and with this improved Police coverage it is hoped there can be a focus on tackling the issues at Riverside Park. Crimesecure have been approached with regard to the possibility of CCTV coverage. Cllr Mrs A Gardner reminded that all incidents should be reported to the Police via 101 so that a true picture of the level of anti-social behaviour is recorded.

RESOLVED:

That external advice and quotes be sought for the long-term management of Riverside Park. That advice may be sought from Moulton College or take the form of appeal to local residents with specialist expertise in habitat survey and management .

11. **CLERK'S REPORT**

Nightingale Way Play Area, 3 Giant Chairs from Chowns Mill Improvement Scheme

The 3 Giant Chairs are to be installed week commencing 17th May. The official unveiling ceremony will be held Tuesday 25th May 2021. Alongside the Mayor, Highways England, the woodcarver and the 3 participating schools will be represented at the ceremony.

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, Marion Darnell, be received and noted.

13. **ITEMS TO REPORT**

Cllr Mrs P Whiting requested an agenda item to consider participation in the Queen's Platinum Jubilee tree planting scheme.

Cllr P McCann requested an agenda item for the provision of a wet weather shelter at the Dogs Off Lead area.

14. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

13th July 2021.

Chairman

Date