

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE ENVIRONMENT AND RECREATION  
COMMITTEE HELD ON TUESDAY 12<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER 2019 AT 7.30PM  
AT THE TOWN HALL.**

**PRESENT:**

Cllr Mrs S Mantle (Chairman)  
Cllr C O'Rourke  
Cllr H L Jackson  
Cllr Mrs A Gardner  
Cllr V Paul  
Cllr Mrs P H Whiting  
Cllr C Reavey (as a substitute for Cllr A M T Reading)  
Mrs S J Mitcham (Town Clerk)  
Miss A J Schofield (Assistant Clerk)

1. **APOLOGIES**

Cllr A M T Reading.

2. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Cll H L Jackson, item 6 and item 18, owns plots at the Cemetery.

3. **MINUTES**

**RESOLVED:**

That the minutes of the meeting held 10<sup>th</sup> September 2019 be signed by the Chairman as being a true and correct record.

4. **PUBLIC FORUM**

Mr Tomas spoke with regard to item 14. The open fires at the scrapyards caused the valley to be filled with smoke, smoke that was toxic due to the nature of the waste that was being burnt. Mr Tomas expressed the seriousness of the incidents. East Northants Council and the Environment Agency are aware of the incidents. He requested the Council seek an update on the fire incidents.

5. **TREE PLANTING**

5.1. Presentation from Richard Gell, Parish Tree Warden.

Gravel extraction has played a key role in dictating the local landscape. There are many areas of woodland locally. Photos were shown of Riverside Park when the trees were first planted and then comparison made with the appearance of the Park now. In 1986 the Nature Conservation Group surveyed the hedgerows and trees in the Parish and Richard Gell presented the map from this survey. Reference was then made to the Grounds Maintenance Contract, with a map showing the contracted areas and the areas of open space and parks within the town. The options for tree planting on Town Council land are limited. Kings Meadow Phase 5 has not yet been adopted by the Council with adoption from the developer likely in 2021. Phase 6 Kings Meadow, Nightingale Way Recreation Ground and the Dogs Off Lead area have scope for a small amount of planting. The Town Green land has legal issues preventing tree planting at present. 3 areas were suggested for tree planting, but the areas were not on land under the control of the Council. The land is understood to be in the ownership of the Duchy of Lancaster and as such would not be open access for the public.

5.2. **RESOLVED:**

That the Council approach the Duchy of Lancaster with a view to pursuing the possibility of tree planting involving the local schools on the 3 areas as suggested by the Tree Warden.

6. **CEMETERY FEE REVIEW FOR 2020/21**  
**RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND:**

That the following cemetery fees for 2020/21 remain the same at:-

- Purchase of a child plot - £100
- Burial of stillborn child - £0
- Burial of child under 12 years- £135
- Burial of person over 12 years single depth - £425
- Burial of person over 12 years double depth - £525
- Headstone (1.4m in height) - £85, each additional 0.1m - £10
- Additional inscription - £45
- Flower vase with/without inscription - £45
- Purchase of cremation plot - £140
- Interment of ashes single depth - £185
- Interment of ashes double depth - £200
- Administration fee (no undertaker for ashes interment) - £50
- Registration of transfer of burial rights - £50
- Searches and certified copies/extracts - £30

That the following cemetery fees for 2020/21 be amended:-

- Purchase of Burial Plot (at time of death) - Increase of £10 to £330
- Single kerbset – Increase of £5 to £95
- Double kerbset -Increase of £5 to £130
- Memorial stone, horizontal or vertical – Increase of £5 to £55

7. **SPORTS FACILITY FEES REVIEW FOR 2020/21**

(i) **Sports Club Fees**

**RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND:**

That the following fees for 2020/21 remain the same at:-

- Football Clubs: Football Pitch only - £16 per match, Changing Rooms - £25 (plus VAT) per match.
- Cricket Club: Pitch - £220 per season, Changing Rooms £300 (plus VAT) per season.
- Tennis Club are £162.50 per quarter to include all matches, club and coaching sessions and use of the cabin.

(ii) **Casual hire of Tennis Courts and MUGA**

**RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND:**

That the fees for 2020/21 remain the same at:-

- Hire of Tennis Courts - £5 (inc VAT) per hour. (Half price if a Tennis Club Member)
- Regular users - seasonal fee of £50 per annum and a 20% reduction (£40) for tennis club members.
- MUGA - £10 (inc VAT) per hour.

(iii) **School use of facilities**

**RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND:**

That the fees for the period 1<sup>st</sup> June to 17<sup>th</sup> July 2020 remain the same at £300 plus VAT.

(iv) **Pavilion hire**

**RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND:**

That the fees for 2020/21 remain the same at:-

	Room Type	Price per Hour (£)	Price per Hour (£)

Category of Hire		(Mondays – Saturdays inclusive)	(Sundays/Public Bank Holidays)
<b>Commercial</b>	Hall 1	£12.50	£18.75
<b>Charity</b>	Hall 1	£10	£15
<b>Community</b>	Hall 1	£9.50	£14.25
<b>Under 13's Party</b>	Hall 1	£8.50	£12.75
<b>Private Function / Party</b>	Hall 1	£11	£16.50

(v) **Hire of Castle Fields for fairs etc.**

**RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND:**

That the fee for 2020/21 for the use of Castle Fields for fairs etc remain the same, subject to negotiation by the Clerk, with a minimum fee of £500.

8. **CLIMATE CHANGE**

8.1. **RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND:**

That the Council establish a working party to look at the development of an environmental policy.

8.2. **RESOLVED:**

That the Council respond to the correspondence received regarding climate change to advise of the proposed establishment of the working party.

9. **NIGHTINGALE WAY RECREATION AREA**

9.1. **Painting of some of the new play equipment.**

**RESOLVED:**

That the new play equipment remain as is and that no painting of items takes place.

9.2. **Extra tree/hedge planting on the Nightingale Way Recreation Ground.**

**RESOLVED:**

That the Clerk liaise with the Tree Warden, further to planting suggestions he has put forward, to facilitate proposals to be presented to Council for consideration.

9.3. **Dogs off lead.**

**RESOLVED:**

That the Clerk investigate the process for a Public Space Protection Order to formalise a Dogs On Lead Area. That quotes are obtained for the installation of a fence around the play equipment.

9.4. **Installation of a dog waste bin.**

**RESOLVED:**

That a dog waste bin is required on the Recreation Ground towards the Nightingale Way entrance. That advice be sought with regard to recommended distances from residential properties for the siting of a bin.

9.5. **Response to the complaint about the play area.**

**RESOLVED:**

That the response to the complaint be sent as drafted.

10. **BIN STORAGE ON COUNCIL LAND AT MALLARD CLOSE**

**RESOLVED:**

That the Council write to the resident at 17 Mallard Close regarding the unauthorised use of

the Council's land for bin storage.

11. **MAIN GATE TO CASTLE FIELDS**

**RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND:**

That new main gates be installed at Castle Fields at a cost of £1865 with an additional cost of £160 to allow for the resetting of the post if required.

12. **SURFACING TO THE TODDLER SWING SET, SAFFRON ROAD RECREATION GROUND**

**RESOLVED:**

That additional quotes be obtained for the removal of the old wetpour and the laying of bonded rubber mulch.

13. **5-A-SIDE PITCH, SAFFRON ROAD RECREATION GROUND**

**RESOLVED:**

That for this winter period the goal post nearest the play area be removed and the goal post nearest the cricket pitch be turned around to allow play in a single direction on that goal. That investigation is made into different fixing methods for the goal posts so that they can be rotated on a permanent basis between 2 pitch areas. The second pitch location suggested to be nearer the cricket pitch immediately beyond the existing.

14. **OPEN FIRE AT SCRAPYARD, NEAR A6 IRTHLINGBOROUGH BRIDGE**

The Committee considered the following motion from Cllr P Tomas:-

To consider the open fires at the scrapyard.

**RESOLVED:**

That an update regarding the incidents be sought from East Northants Council to allow feedback to Council.

15. **CLERK'S REPORT**

**Trim Trail Castle Fields**

Historic England have responded to a pre-application on the proposed trim trail to say they would be prepared to consider it in the location of the old sunken tennis court, rather than along the fence. A revised drawing has been submitted to Historic England.

**Phase 5**

Solicitors for David Wilson Homes have been in touch regarding the transfer of the open space. The Clerk has instructed the Town Council solicitors. David Wilson Homes have now agreed a contractor for the remedial works so it is moving forward slowly.

**MUGA and Tennis Courts**

As reported at Policy and Resources Committee there are some cracks in the surface of the MUGA which have appeared over the last few months. A contractor has been out and feels it is caused by heave. He will be quoting for repair. In terms of future maintenance of the courts and life span, he has given the following indications: -

MUGA – resurface in 2 to 3 years. If a coating is put on now, which they will quote for, this will extend the life.

Tennis Courts – 2 to 3 years reline and recoat. Resurface minimum 5 years. The courts are already coated.

Note resurfacing is about £20000 for the MUGA

**RESOLVED:**

That the report from the Clerk be received and noted.

16. **PARISH PATHS WARDEN REPORT**

**RESOLVED:**

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

17. **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.

18. **PURCHASE OF BURIAL PLOTS AT THE CEMETERY**

**RESOLVED:**

That, if requested, permission be given to cater for a special circumstance regarding the pre-purchase of burial plots. That draft amendment to the Cemetery Rules and Regulations to cater for other such similar circumstances be taken to the next Committee meeting for consideration.

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

**RESOLVED:**

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

20. **ITEMS TO REPORT**

None.

21. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

14<sup>th</sup> January 2020.

Chairman

Date