

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE ENVIRONMENT AND RECREATION COMMITTEE**  
**HELD ON TUESDAY 10<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER 2020 AT 7.30PM**  
**USING ZOOM VIDEO CONFERENCING**

**PRESENT:**

Cllr A M T Reading (Chairman)  
Cllr C P O'Rourke  
Cllr Mrs P H Whiting  
Cllr Mrs C Reavey  
Cllr Mrs A Gardner  
Cllr H L Jackson  
Cllr N Brown  
Mrs S J Mitcham (Town Clerk)  
Miss A J Schofield (Assistant Clerk)

**IN ATTENDANCE:** 1 Member of the Public

1. **APOLOGIES**

None.

2. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Cllr H L Jackson requested that an entry be made in the minutes to make it clear that as a member of both the Town and District Council he will reconsider all matters at District level taking into account all relevant evidence and representations at the District tier. Therefore, he cannot be bound in any way by any view expressed in the parish tier or by decisions of this Committee.

3. **MINUTES**

**RESOLVED:**

That the minutes of the meeting held 15<sup>th</sup> September 2020 be signed by the Chairman as being a true and correct record.

4. **PUBLIC FORUM**

None.

5. **CEMETERY FEE REVIEW FOR 2021/22**

**RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND:**

That the following cemetery fees for 2021/22 remain the same at:-

- Purchase of a burial plot- £330
- Purchase of a child plot - £100
- 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
- Single kerbset or other memorial - £95
- Double kerbset or other memorial - £130
- Flower vase with/without inscription - £45
- Purchase of cremation plot - £140
- Interment of ashes single depth - £185
- Interment of ashes double depth - £200

- Memorial stone for cremated remains, horizontal or vertical - £55
- 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:-

- Scattering of ashes – increase of £5 to £55
- Burial of stillborn child – increase from nil fee to £40

## 6. **SPORTS AND FACILITY FEE REVIEW FOR 2021/22**

### 6.1. **Report regarding the use of facilities current year to date.**

Covid-19 has affected the use of the facilities since March of this year.

- Football - matches re-commenced on the pitch at the beginning of October and ceased 5<sup>th</sup> November we entered 2<sup>nd</sup> national lockdown.
- Cricket - season started late, matches commenced from mid-July with a £45 price per match agreed for the remainder of the season.
- Tennis – club sessions re-commenced from the beginning of September. Casual hire of tennis courts from end of June. Sessions ceased 5<sup>th</sup> November.
- MUGA – remains closed. Resurfacing work has been undertaken during closure with line marking pending.
- Pavilion – main building remains closed aside restricted access for the use of the toilets for football and cricket matches.
- Hire of Castle Fields – No hire - Council made decision in July that James Richards Circus request not be permitted due to the risk from Covid-19.

#### **RESOLVED:**

That the report regarding the use of facilities current year to date be received and noted.

### 6.2. **Sports Club and Facility Fees**

#### (i) **RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND:**

That the fees for 2021/22 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 2021/22 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 after May half term through to the end of the summer term remain the same at £300 plus VAT.

(iv) **Pavilion hire**

**RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND:**

That the fees for 2021/22 remain the same at:-

| Category of Hire                    | Room Type | Price per Hour (£)<br>(Mondays –<br>Saturdays inclusive) | Price per Hour (£)<br>(Sundays/Public<br>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 /<br/>Party</b> | Hall 1    | £11  | £16.50  |

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

**RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND:**

That the fee for 2021/22 for the use of Castle Fields for fairs etc remain the same, subject to negotiation by the Clerk, with a minimum fee of £500.

7. **TREE PLANTING, SAFFRON ROAD RECREATION GROUND**

**RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND:**

That upto 5 'Swedish White Beam' trees are planted on Saffron Road Recreation Ground at a cost of £1381.25 subject to site visits to allow the committee to agree the exact location for the trees.

8. **GREENWAY, KINGS MEADOW, GROUNDS MAINTENANCE TO BOUNDARY LAND**

**RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND:**

That a Working Party be formed to further investigate possible areas, associated schedule of works and costs for grounds maintenance. That the Working Party comprise Cllr Brown, Cllr Jackson and Cllr O'Rourke.

9. **ADDITIONAL FENCING AND GATE AT THE DOGS OFF LEAD AREA**

**RESOLVED:**

That agreement in principle be given to the user group for the installation of additional fencing and a second gate at the Dogs Off Lead area to create a fenced-off double gate entry system. That this agreement allows the group to commence their fund raising to meet the Council's supply and installation costs for the new entry system.

10. **WASHING AND MOSS TREATMENT OF THE TENNIS COURTS**

**RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND:**

That a 3-year contract be entered for the annual provision of high pressure washing and moss treatment of the tennis courts at a cost of £730 per annum.

11. **LETTER REGARDING ACCESS TO THE OPEN SPACE TO THE REAR OF BEDE CLOSE**

**RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND:**

That Council agree in principle to the removal of the hedge between No. 10 and No. 25 Bede Close and to the installation of a low picket fence in place of the hedge, subject to the resident installing the fence at their cost. That a quote be obtained for the removal of the hedge to allow Council to consider if a contribution towards the cost of removal should be sought from the resident. That the access between the 2 properties to the open space to the rear of Bede Close should remain open.

12. **SHARED CONSERVATION. PROPOSED WILDFLOWER MEADOW  
SOVEREIGN FIELDS, KINGS MEADOW ESTATE**

**RESOLVED:**

That discussion be entered with Hegarty Property Management Ltd to further investigate with them their proposal for a wildflower meadow at Sovereign Fields. The Clerk to work as required with the Greenway Working Party subject to its proposed formation under item 8.

13. **CLERK'S REPORT**

**Riverside Park – Forest Schools**

Received from Rushden Kids Club, St Margarets Avenue, Rushden, who bring pre-school children to Riverside Park as part of the national 'Forest Schools' programme.

*I just wanted to update you on our Forest school sessions and again to say a big thank you for allowing us to use this area. The sessions are going really well and the children really look forward to coming every week, every day they ask if they are coming. We have had very positive feedback from the parents and I feel very privileged to be able to bring our children there its such a lovely area to come every week and to explore. I'm sure as the seasons change we will learn and discover more about the area.*

**RESOLVED:**

That the report from the Clerk be received and noted.

14. **PARISH PATHS WARDEN REPORT**

**RESOLVED:**

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

15. **ITEMS TO REPORT**

Cllr C P O'Rourke raised query regarding the appearance and need for the hedge that runs to the path side of the boundary fence of the cricket pitch. The Clerk confirmed that maintenance of the hedge formed part of the Grounds Maintenance contracted works. The Clerk further explained the background and strong feelings from associated parties at the time of the planting of the hedge.

16. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

12<sup>th</sup> January 2021.

Chairman

Date