

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE ENVIRONMENT AND RECREATION
COMMITTEE HELD ON TUESDAY 12th SEPTEMBER 2017 AT 7.30PM
AT THE TOWN HALL.**

PRESENT:

Cllr R Gell (Chairman)
Cllr D C Lawson MBE
Cllr P Tomas
Cllr A M T Reading
Cllr C O'Rourke
Cllr Mrs S Mantle
Cllr Mrs V Newbery
Mrs S J Mitcham (Town Clerk)
Miss A J Schofield (Assistant Town Clerk)

1. **APOLOGIES**

None.

2. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Other Interests

Cllr P Tomas – Item 7, lives in Mallard Close, Item 8, is a member of Rotary Club
Cllr D C Lawson MBE - Item 7, lives in Mallard Close.

3. **MINUTES**

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meeting held 11th July 2017 be signed by the Chairman as being a true and correct record.

4. **PUBLIC FORUM**

No public present.

5. **CONTAINER ADJACENT TENNIS COURTS**

Members sought clarification regarding the electrical connection. The Clerk advised the cost included the supply and the laying of the cable, which would be a heavy duty cable.

RESOLVED:

That the following work is agreed:-

Drain works, external works for general tidying of the site, trench and the electrical connection, subject to the electrical connection being presented back to the committee for consideration should the actual cost be significantly more than the budget estimate. That consideration of the paved patio and a ramp be deferred pending receipt of additional quotes, with a budget for these works set at £11,641.

6. **USE OF VILLAGE GREEN LAND ADJACENT GLEBE FARM**

Committee were advised the land could be used for 'lawful sports and pastimes'.

RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND:

That the land be used for unorganised outdoor recreational activities such as cricket, children playing, kite flying, football, with the provision of goal posts, running and circuit training. That in the longer term consideration be given to the possibility of providing vehicular access for on-site parking.

7. **MALLARD CLOSE OPEN SPACE**

Members considered an initial design and costings for the provision of play equipment on the open space at Mallard Close.

RESOLVED:

That the initial design tabled was of the type and form of play equipment that members thought appropriate for the open space and as follows:-

- Goalpost/basketball net with surfacing eg half court idea
- Play equipment suitable for up to 12's to include:-
 - Rockers/springers
 - Slide
 - Swing but not standard swing
 - Climbing Unit

That the Clerk undertake consultation on the type and form of play equipment with the area and extent of the consultation to be as considered appropriate by the Clerk.

8. **REQUEST FROM RUSHDEN CHICHELE ROTARY CLUB FOR A PEACE POLE AND TREE PLANTING**

RESOLVED:

That further to the request from the Rushden Chichele Rotary Club the Clerk write to advise that members were unsure of where best to locate a peace pole and would invite ideas from the club for a possible location. This would enable the request to be considered in detail.

9. **REQUEST FOR CONSIDERATION OF THE PLANTING OF A 'TREE OF HOPE'**

Members considered the request with respect to the open space land within their ownership.

RESOLVED:

That the request for the planting of a 'tree of hope' not be supported.

10. **REPAIR AND IMPROVEMENT WORK TO THE SKATE PARK**

A cost had been obtained for the placement of bonded mulch to the sides and rear of the end ramp mounds of the skate park.

RESOLVED:

That the matter be deferred to allow the Clerk to obtain information regarding product warranty and guarantee periods for the bonded mulch and to investigate any other alternative long term options to ameliorate the issue of the soil erosion and exposed foundations. That in the meantime contractors be approached to see if they can undertake works to address the issue for the short term.

11. **REQUEST FOR PLANTING AND ERECTION OF FENCE ON LAND ADJACENT 21 SCHOOL LANE**

Members considered the request for permission to plant shrubs and trees and erect a 1 bar barrier fence on land adjoining 21 School Lane and for the donation of materials for this purpose.

RESOLVED:

That, given the area is already maintained under contract, it was felt the request could not be met.

12. **PARKER WAY FENCING**

Council considered repair to the post and rail fence in Parker Way at the March 2017 council meeting, with resolution the fence would be left and re-inspection of its condition would take place in 12 months time. Since that resolution the fence has further deteriorated with a

substantial section missing following recent collapse/vandalism, with another section loose and leaning.

RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND:

That the fence be removed from the top end of Parker Way near the school to the first road crossing to Blackwell Close.

13. **CLERK'S REPORT**

Play Equipment for the older children/teens at Saffron Road Play Area

As agreed at Town Council, an application has been submitted to the CFF for £8,000 to part fund the supply and installation of the following play equipment;

30m zip wire, rope swing and overhead carousel

The balance of funding of £10,205 to be met from Higham Ferrers Improvement Reserve. Tourism has previously indicated a willingness to give a grant of £1500 towards equipment for older children. If successful to the next stage of the CFF the Committee will be asked to consider the exact location for the equipment and fencing arrangements.

New MUGA facilities

To mark the provision of the new facilities an official opening is in the planning for the end of September, final date to be confirmed. The plans are to run the opening in conjunction with a day of interactive training sessions led by Play Innovation for the Higham Ferrers Junior School children.

Kings Meadow, Phase 5

The Clerk has met with the Adoptions Manager. This management post had recently been created, with previous meetings having been held with site managers. With a dedicated Adoptions Manager it is hoped that progress may now be made on the phase 5 open space adoption. The Station Road development was also discussed, with a view to this adoption being carried forward at the same time.

RESOLVED:

That the Town Clerk's report be received and noted.

14. **BUDGET 2018/19**

RESOLVED:

That the following suggestions be carried forward for consideration by the Policy and Resources Committee:

- Resurfacing of the path on the Saffron Road recreation ground
- Resurfacing, if required following inspection, of paths in the Cemetery
- Bus shelters
- Access and car parking on the village green land

15. **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.

16. **CLERK'S REPORT, LEGAL UPDATE**

RESOLVED:

That the verbal report from the Town Clerk be received and noted.

17. **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.

18. **PARISH PATHS WARDEN REPORT**

RESOLVED:

That the report from the Parish Paths Warden be received and noted. That the Parish Paths Warden be thanked and advised that members are pleased with the comprehensive reporting.

19. **ITEMS TO REPORT**

Cllr Mrs Val Newbery queried when the broken adult fitness equipment would be repaired or replaced. The Clerk advised the company were being chased further to request the repair or replacement be under structural warranty.

Report was received of the pavilion lights being left on and the street light near the pavilion and bowling green being faulty.

20. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

14th November 2017

Chairman

Date