

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE ENVIRONMENT AND RECREATION
COMMITTEE HELD ON TUESDAY 10th SEPTEMBER 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 A M T Reading
Cllr V Paul
Mrs S J Mitcham (Town Clerk)
Miss A J Schofield (Assistant Clerk)

1. **APOLOGIES**

Cllr Mrs P H Whiting.

2. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None.

3. **MINUTES**

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meeting held on the 16th July 2019 be approved and signed by the Chairman as being a true and correct record.

4. **PUBLIC FORUM**

None.

5. **FOOTPATH REPAIRS TO LITTLE CASTLE FIELDS**

RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND:

That repairs to the footpath running through Little Castle Fields to Midland Road be undertaken at a cost of £8839 to include the motorcycle inhibitor section of path leading to Castle Fields. Funds from Asset Maintenance Reserve.

6. **MAIN GATES TO CASTLE FIELDS**

RESOLVED:

That the Clerk explore the possibility of trying to locate a blacksmith to repair the gate.

7. **INTERPRETATION PANEL IN ST MARY'S CHURCHYARD**

RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND:

That a budget of £1570 be agreed to allow for the provision of an interpretation panel in St Mary's Churchyard. Funds allocated in Projects budget.

8. **SHELTER FOR SAFFRON ROAD RECREATION GROUND**

RESOLVED:

That the Council take no further action to pursue a shelter on Saffron Road Recreation Ground.

9. **SCATTERING OF ASHES AREA AT THE CEMETERY**

RESOLVED:

That to allow consideration of the improvement of the scattering of ashes area research be

undertaken with regard to planting to provide whole year colour and foliage and with regard to the installation of a monument.

10. **WOODEN BENCH AT CASTLE FIELDS**

Item 11 moved by agreement and considered with item 10.

REPLACEMENT SEATS AT CASTLE FIELDS

RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND:

That two replacement wooden benches on the grass area and two cast iron seats alongside the footpath be installed at Castle Fields at a cost of £1488 plus installation and delivery. That, if possible, one of the cast iron seats be raised to help accommodate the elderly/disabled. Funds from Higham Ferrers Improvement Reserve.

11. **REPLACEMENT SEATS AT CASTLE FIELDS**

Item 11 moved by agreement and considered with item 10.

12. **BBQ AREA**

RESOLVED:

That the Council take no further action to pursue a BBQ area.

13. **FENCING TO FITZWILLIAM PLAY AREA**

A budget price of £6635 had been obtained to replace the existing fence with a similar style wooden fence.

RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND:

That the fence to Fitzwilliam Leys Play Area be replaced with galvanised playsafe specification bow top fencing with an agreed budget for the works of £7995 to include in built hydro self-closing gates. Funds from Section 106 Maintenance Reserve.

14. **FITNESS SESSIONS USING THE GYM EQUIPMENT, SAFFRON ROAD RECREATION GROUND**

To consider a request to run fitness sessions on the gym equipment at Saffron Road Recreation Ground.

RESOLVED:

That additional information is sought from the fitness instructor including confirmation of his credentials and other sessions run and the arrangements at those session locations.

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

RESOLVED:

That references are sought from one of the suppliers quoting. That quotes are sought for bonded rubber mulch in addition to wetpour.

16. **REFILL BARK CHIP AND UNDERTAKE REPAIR WORK TO FENCING AND WOODEN EDGING, VILLA RISE PLAY AREA**

RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND:

That the bark chip be replenished at Villa Rise play area at a cost of £1625. That works to replace a number of base boards to the fence and sections of the wooden edging to the wetpour areas be undertaken at a cost of £954.

17. **PARISH PATHS WARDEN REPORT**

RESOLVED:

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

18. **ITEMS TO REPORT**

The Clerk reported as follows:-

Mallard Close Play Area

Works are due to start 16th September and will last about 3 weeks.

Phase 5

The Clerk is meeting with the developer on 17th September to review works required to get it ready for handover to the Town Council.

Larkin Gardens Play Areas.

The Clerk has met with the ENC Officers. In the opinion of the officers, the s106 is written in a way that it should have been handed over to ENC. They will work with the developer to improve the areas and work towards a handover.

Dog Waste Bags

ENC have forwarded a contact for Tikspac which are providing dog waste bag dispensers and bags for free. The Clerk will be talking to them about the possibility of these on some of our open space. It is understood it is sponsored by a pet insurance company and they will be promoted on the signs. The Clerk is expecting a call on this tomorrow.

Open Space at Patenall Way

A resident has contacted the office disappointed that Council will not support the sale of some open space to extend his garden. He asked about an appeal process. He was told that the Council will not discuss again for 6 months. He said he will be back in touch in 6 months.

Cllr C O'Rourke queried the standard of grass cutting in the cemetery and spoke of the cuttings sticking to the headstones. The Clerk advised this had been raised with the contractors and the matter was being dealt with.

19. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

12th November 2019.

Chairman

Date