

HIGHAM FERRERS TOWN COUNCIL

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE RECREATION AND AMENITIES
COMMITTEE HELD ON TUESDAY 14th APRIL 2015 AT 7.30 PM AT THE TOWN
HALL.**

PRESENT:

Cllr Mrs V Newbery (Chairman)
Cllr R J Gell
Cllr H L Jackson
Cllr G Whiting
Cllr Mrs S Mantle
Cllr P Tomas (substitute for Cllr S Wiles)
Cllr Mrs PH Whiting (substitute for A M T Reading)
Mrs S J Mitcham (Town Clerk)
S Roberts- Higham Ferrers Tennis Club
David Freeman Higham Ferrers Bowls Club

IN ATTENDANCE:

1 member of the public.

1. **APOLOGIES**

Cllr S Wiles, Cllr A M T Reading, Cllr M Beesley.

2. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None.

3. **MINUTES**

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the Recreation and Amenities Committee held on 13th January 2015 be signed as a true and correct record.

4. **REPORTS FROM CLUBS**

To receive reports from:-

4.1. **Higham Ferrers Cricket Club**

No report.

4.2. **Higham Ferrers Bowls Club**

David Freeman reported that that an enrolment evening was due to take place on Thursday. They had been running a recruitment drive. The quarter and semi-finals of the County Club competitions would be held at the green. This was because it was considered a good green.

4.3. **Higham Ferrers Tennis Club**

Steve Roberts reported that the Sunday club sessions had been well attended. Summer sessions would start on 6th May and there would be a free playing session that night. Club coaching session was due to start in the 3rd week in May.

5. **TOWN CLERK'S REPORT.**

The Town Clerk gave the following verbal report:-

Skateboard Park

The skateboard park has now been installed. A fence had been ordered to replace the

knee rail fence, a path and bench was due to be installed and the turf finished off. The working group was due to meet to consider issues. It was hoped that some detached work would be taking place in the area.

Football Teams

Both teams had now finished their season. Cllr G Whiting asked what would be done about the goal mouths. Clerk confirmed that she would look at works in this area.

Tennis Courts.

The moss treatment had been carried out.

Storage/Toilets Project

There had been no progress as no further funding opportunities had been found.

RESOLVED:

That the report be received and noted.

6. **OUTDOOR GYM EQUIPMENT**

The working group had met and looked at possible location. Many responses had said it should be a central location. The group had agreed that adjacent the Saffron Road Play Area on the north boundary would be the best location. Prices had not changed.

Prices:-

A - £8,159 plus VAT

B - £15,859 plus VAT

C - £14,685 plus VAT

RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND:

That the location for 5 pieces of outdoor gym equipment be adjacent to the northern boundary of Saffron Road Play Area. Applications to be made for grant funding from appropriate sources for the full cost. Clerk to clarify why price A much cheaper and check quality of goods and work. The price with the best quality work to be used for the grant applications.

7. **HEDGE ADJACENT TO THE FENCE ON SAFFRON ROAD RECREATION GROUND.**

An email had been received from a resident requesting that the future of the hedge by the fence on Saffron Road Recreation Ground be reviewed as it was not well maintained and could become a drain on council resources.

A motion to remove the hedge failed.

RESOLVED:

That the Clerk obtain prices for infilling the hedge with mature plants for consideration at the next meeting.

8. **HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES ON SAFFRON ROAD RECREATION GROUND.**

The Clerk had held a meeting with lead coach at Northamptonshire Sport. He was keen to set up a programme of activities using the local primary school as a hub and making use of the facilities on Saffron Road Recreation Ground. No details had been received as hoped.

RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND:

That in principal the Council allow use of the facilities for free on Saffron Road

Recreation Ground. A final decision to be made once full detail received.

9. **NO BALL GAMES SIGN-FITZWILLIAMS LEYS**

Two residents had requested that the Council erect "No Ball Games" signs near Fitzwilliam Leys Play Area to address the problems with football damaging property in the area and causing general nuisance.

RESOLVED:

That the Council not erect permanent "No Ball Games" signs near Fitzwilliam Leys Play area as there was no way of enforcing it and there was no sanction available.

10. **ITEMS TO REPORT.**

Cllr P Tomas asked that the land at the end of Mallard Close be placed on a future agenda. Clerk advised that this would be the Environment Committee.

Cllr H L Jackson requested that the moving of the 5 aside goal be looked at and repairs undertaken to the worn area.

11. **NEXT MEETING.**

14th July 2015

Chairman

Date