

**RECREATIONAL FACILITIES WORKING GROUP MEETING – 17 DECEMBER  
2021**

At the remote meeting of the Recreational Facilities Working Group held by video conference on Friday 17 December 2021, the following Councillors were present: -

Mrs J Leggett - Chairperson

Mr M G Callam        -        Ms D Coleman

Mr J H Mallen

In attendance

Mr G Ranaweera        -        Town Clerk and Responsible  
Financial Officer

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**21/106. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

No apologies for absence were received.

**21/107. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD 19 NOVEMBER 2021**

Minutes of the meeting held on 19 November 2021 were agreed without amendment.

**21/108. MATTERS ARISING**

(a) Rewilding Verges

Ms D Coleman confirmed she had delivered leaflets to all appropriate Households and would redeliver just before springtime to remind residents of the scheme.

The Town Clerk had received three enquiries from interested residents to date.

(b) Tiny Forests

The Town Clerk advised he did not have a start date for planting of the Tiny Forest at Sprowston Recreation Ground however was in receipt of an email confirming it was still progressing.

(c) Gates on Barkers Lane

Scheduled for February 2022.

(d) Sprowston Youth Engagement Project (SYEP) Urban Garden

The planning application for construction of an urban garden on land at Church Lane was delivered to Broadland District Council on 9 December

## **21/108. MATTERS ARISING (CONTINUED)**

2021. The Town Clerk explained that as the applicant SYEP were liable for payment of the full application fee, approximately £400.00. He had made payment by cheque which would be deducted from the agreed grant to be made by Council to SYEP in January 2022.

Mrs J Leggett to enquire if SYEP's voluntary status would reduce the fees applicable.

## **21/109. SKATE PARK**

The Town Clerk reported he had another meeting with developers on 21 December 2021 as they were unable to provide dimensions and costs for the skate park and play area in time for the last meeting.

## **21/110. VIKING CENTRE**

Having spoken to Council's appointed architect the Town Clerk reported Bidwell's LLP were commencing work on designs to be drawn up and completed by end of January in preparation for a full planning application to be submitted in mid-February. He had asked for preliminary drawings in time for the open days and consultation at the Viking Centre on 18 and 19 January 2022. The planning application fee of £18,500 would be offset against the final invoice from Bidwell's LLP.

Specialist structural, acoustic and traffic surveys were likely to be required.

With regard to public consultation days the building now had electrical power supply. The main room would be cleaned and plans, if received in time, displayed on stand free boards. Alternatively preliminary plans will be displayed. Refreshments would not be served as there were no washroom facilities available.

In response to Councillors questions the Town Clerk advised:

- open days would proceed as planned unless Government announced further restrictions.
- a suggestion box would be available for public comment together with relevant stationary.

Mr J H Mallen commented on the number of vehicles currently parking in the centre's car park and how this would stop when the site was developed.

The Town Clerk confirmed he had already spoken to some neighbouring businesses who were parking at the centre advising that Council had bought the property and would be fencing off the site at some point.

## **21/111. ADULT GYM AND RUNNING TRACK**

During a lengthy debate a number of matters were discussed including:

## **21/111. ADULT GYM AND RUNNING TRACK (CONTINUED)**

- the only response received by the Town Clerk from the running group was for provision of a six-lane track.
- informal quotation of £360,000 for six-lane polymeric running track received.
- cinder tracks no longer appear to be produced.
- support for gym equipment on small open spaces.
- has there been any requests for rubber grass matting at entrances to Barkers Lane field to reduce mud?
- could a six-lane track be provided by mowing and line marking? This would establish if a track was likely to be popular with residents without spending large amounts of money?

It was agreed the Town Clerk to:

- obtain a more precise quotation for a six-lane polymeric running track.
- to discuss with the Head Groundsman the feasibility of providing and maintaining a mowed, lined marked six-lane running track.

## **21/112. EVENTS**

### (a) Jubilee

It was agreed to discuss this subject at the next meeting of the Recreational Facilities Working Group.

### (a) Summer Fete

Mrs J Leggett reported she had enquired about the requirement of licenses and was awaiting a response from Broadland District Council.

The Town Clerk confirmed:

- letters had been posted and emailed to the agreed list of organisations.
- Mr Green and Mr Summers from the Showman's Guild had been contacted and had expressed tentative interest.
- he was awaiting Local Flavours to confirm their availability.
- there had been little response from other organisations. The local Scout Group would like to be involved however would like more detail on the event.

## **21/112. EVENTS (CONTINUED)**

- he suggested a location map of the various activities on the Recreation Ground.

It was agreed there should be a central arena.

## **21/113. ASSETS OF COMMUNITY VALUE**

Mrs J Leggett advised, that having been asked, she had written to Broadland District Council in support of the Asset of Community Value nomination for Sprowston Sports and Social Club, Blue Boar Lane in her capacity as District Councillor.

It was agreed Ms D Coleman draft a letter in support of the Asset of Community Value for consideration by other group members before submitting to Broadland District Council on Monday 20 December 2021.

### 1. Items planned to end of year

- (b) Letter to Broadland - re: open space at next phase of White House Farm

Referring to the letter prepared by the Town Clerk Mrs J Leggett advised that before sending this correspondence she would like to confirm with the Portfolio Holder that the District Council could provide what the Town Council was asking for.

Mr M G Callam felt the Town Council should ask for what they wanted. The important point being made is developers should liaise with the Town Council before submitting a reserved matters application. The current process allows for all major elements of developments to be agreed before the Town Council has any input.

He also noted the various developments off Salhouse Road were of a size that exempted them from providing onsite amenities hence there were hundreds of houses with no local recreational facilities.

He suggested the District Council had a responsibility when allocating sites to ensure there was sufficient provision of amenity space.

It was agreed the Town Clerk update the letter and place on the agenda of a future full Council meeting.

## **21/114. ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING**

- (a) Cafe at Sprowston Recreation Ground

The Town Clerk reported there appeared to be two methods:

## **21/114. ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING (CONTINUED)**

- (i) hourly, half-day or daily charging for a pitch. This could deter vendors as they would have to generate enough income to cover costs.
- (ii) charging a percentage of income. This might be more appealing to the vendor however it would be more difficult for Council to account for.

Council could initially offer a weekend pitch when the park was busy and football spectators on site. If this proved successful open negotiations for weekdays.

There was discussion about possible use of Sprowston Pavilion as a café however the Town Clerk explained the Pavilion was currently the Groundsmen's welfare facility. Should there be a surfeit of CIL receipts in the future a dedicated facility could be provided for the groundsmen.

He initially envisaged a self-sufficient mobile pop-up barista.

It was resolved to recommend to full Council to trial a mobile pop-up café, rent free for one month with subsequent fees subject to negotiation, and to invite expressions of interest.

- (b) Neighbourhood Plan update

Ongoing.

## **21/115. AOB**

Mrs J Leggett reported there were grants of £500 available from Broadland District Council to plant trees in this planting season and for aftercare. Applications could be accepted from parish and town councils and established community groups.

Mrs J Leggett to circulate guidance details for the scheme to members of the Recreational Facilities Working Group.

## **21/116. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

Tuesday 18 January 2022 at 7.00pm