

**RECREATIONAL FACILITIES WORKING GROUP MEETING – 11 FEBRUARY
2022**

At the remote meeting of the Recreational Facilities Working Group held by video conference on Friday 11 February 2022, 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

22/015. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

No apologies for absence were received.

22/016. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD 18 JANUARY 2022

Minutes of the meeting held on 18 January 2022 were agreed subject to the following amendments

Minute 22/003 (f), delete Neighbour and insert Neighbourhood

Minute 22/008, delete Continued and insert Continued

22/017. MATTERS ARISING

(a) Rewilding Verges

Three completed applications with payment had been received by the Town Clerk.

Ms D Coleman said she also had a completed application with payment and would deliver this to Council.

(b) Tiny Forests

The Town Clerk reported planting of the Tiny Forest at Sprowston Recreation Ground would take place on Monday 14 February 2022 and the invitation for residents to participate had been oversubscribed.

(c) Gates on Barkers Lane

Installation of new gates on Barkers Lane open space had been completed. Ms D Coleman commented they had been well received by users of the area.

22/017. MATTERS ARISING (CONTINUED)

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

The Town Clerk advised he had received no further update.

Mrs J Leggett reported that Clare Lincoln had confirmed her colleague Paul Wheeler was providing the additional information required by the Planning Authority.

(e) Letter to Broadland District Council

The draft letter to Broadland District Council to be presented to full Council for their consideration at the Council meeting to be held on 23 February 2022.

(f) Sprowston Neighbourhood Plan

The Town Clerk hoped to present the updated Sprowston Neighbourhood Plan to full Council at their meeting to be held 23 February 2022.

(g) Tree Donation

Ms D Coleman reported she had been approached by a resident in Proctor Road offering Council five trees including Oak, Hazel and Sycamore for planting in the parish should there be a suitable location.

Mrs J Leggett suggested a green area in the vicinity of Eton Walk on Proctor Road and Mr M G Callam the public open space at Windsor Park Gardens. It was agreed Ms D Coleman survey both areas for suitability and report back to the working group.

22/018. VIKING CENTRE

Councillors were pleased to note the positive comments made during the public consultations held at the Viking Centre and discussed the various suggestions made.

With regard to inaccessibility to meetings held on the first floor it was suggested an alternative meeting room be offered in these circumstances at the Viking or Sprowston Diamond Centre.

As to concerns about lack of privacy with toilet facilities opening directly into the halls the Town Clerk had already raised this matter with the Council's architect.

In response to a question from Mrs J Leggett the Town Clerk did not feel amended plans would be available by 23 February 2022 however he could verbally report any recommendations to Council.

22/018. VIKING CENTRE (CONTINUED)

If Council approved the plans in principle Bidwells LLP architect would prepare and submit a planning application and minor amendments such as these could be incorporated.

Councillors felt there was insufficient space to incorporate a gym within the centre as it would occupy a permanent position and prevent any multifunctional use of the space. Furthermore, a level of supervision would be required and the building would be unsupervised.

The Town Clerk advised that results of the consultation would be presented to full Council at their meeting to held 23 February 2022.

With reference to a Viking mural reported to be on a wall within the building the Town Clerk said he would bring this to the attention of developers for possible preservation.

Reading through residents comments the Town Clerk observed a strong theme of community-based amenities such as a coffee shop, meeting places and social spaces. He suggested a different target demographic and business model to Sprowston Diamond Centre. If Council were willing to accept the potential financial loss it would incur in the short term it might be beneficial to the community to prioritise those groups mentioned in the consultation and not catered for at Sprowston Diamond Centre.

Mrs J Leggett suggested an article in Sprowston Matters inviting people to work with the Council to progress the suggestions made at the consultation.

Other ideas put forward by Councillors included debt counselling, community bank and a cup of tea and chat with local Police.

Town Clerk advised he was still working on the application to County Council regarding the footpath.

22/019. SKATE PARK

The Town Clerk reported he had attended a meeting with developers Persimmon Homes, Chris Raines Majors development team leader and Emily Lipscomb S106 officer at Broadland District Council.

All participants were in support of a single combined on-site contribution, removing one of the barriers to getting the deed of variation signed off. However, conversion of the former bus link into a cycle link was causing a delay. Plans and specifications were required.

Mrs J Leggett advised the group that Broadland District Council Economic Development were working on this together with Harrisons Woodland to get it transferred to the District Council.

22/019. SKATE PARK (CONTINUED)

Referring specifically to the skate park the Town Clerk said he was waiting for more detailed landscaping plans showing its exact location. Developers had requested their architects to have completed plans with him by 15 February 2022 in time to prepare for the Council meeting to be held 23 February 2022.

22/020. ADULT GYM AND RUNNING TRACK

The Town Clerk had been advised by the Head Groundsman that grass at Barkers Lane open space could be cut sufficiently short to accommodate a running track and the area line marked. He had also commented on the unevenness of the ground.

It was proposed if the grass be cut short in a 400m running circle, the running club be invited to trial it and ask their members for comments. If it proved popular Council could relook at providing a more permanent track somewhere in Sprowston with adjacent gym equipment or alternatively place gym equipment in other locations where people run.

The proposal to be placed on the agenda for Council meeting to be held on 23 February 2022.

Mr J H Mallen asked if Council had been formally approached by Norwich Union Rugby Club about use of Barkers Lane open space to which the Town Clerk replied no.

22/021. EVENTS

(a) Jubilee

Further to Council's resolution to support the Church with their celebrations of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee on Sunday 5 June 2022 and progress with a beacon lighting event on Thursday 2 June 2022 Mrs J Leggett said whilst the church had a beacon, she did not know who made it and was told it could be placed on something higher.

There was discussion on where the beacon could be lit and Barkers Lane was considered a potential location.

Mrs J Leggett thought music and a vendor selling hot food and beverages might be a good idea. The Town Clerk said the Blue Boar Public House could be open to suggestions. Mr J H Mallen mentioned he had contacts within this field and offered to make some initial, informal enquiries.

The Town Clerk had speculatively approached the City of Norwich Pipe band who were unavailable and Hellesdon and Sprowston Brass Band from whom he was awaiting a response.

22/021. EVENTS (CONTINUED)

Both Ms D Coleman and Mr J H Mallen suggested contacting Sprowston Academy music department.

Council to publicise the church service and picnic.

Town Clerk asked members of the group if Council might like to provide something at the picnic.

Ms Coleman suggested commissioning a large cake or cupcakes for everyone attending to be presented by the Town Mayor at the beginning of the picnic.

She also thought, as this was a church led event, Council should ask Reverend Canon Simon Stokes what he would like them to provide or do.

Further to Council's resolution at it's meeting held on 2 February 2022 it was agreed the Town Clerk contact Reverend Stokes to view the beacon, discuss Council's involvement with the Platinum Jubilee picnic on Sunday 5 June 2022 and organise a Beacon lighting event on Thursday 2 June 2022.

(a) Summer Fete

Two members of the Showman's Guild at Hoopers Lane had confirmed their attendance. Mr Gray of the Showman's Guild at Wymondham had emailed a selection of rides he was able to offer. A bouncy castle and slide had also been sourced.

Mrs J Leggett to send contact details of a Baton Twirling group who might be interested in performing in the arena to the Town Clerk.

Robert of Local Flavours had carried out a site visit and believed he could provide 20 food and drink artisan type stalls, 10 craft stalls and a cookery theatre amongst other vendors. This will form the core of the fete.

Toni Council's Financial Officer was now contacting individuals, groups and businesses to see if they would be interested in a stall at the fete. She was using a contact list from the 2012 fete as a guide and had put up a Facebook post advertising the event and inviting people to apply.

Mr M G Callam said Sprowston Methodist Leadership team were meeting the following week and would discuss if they were attending. It could be a combined church activity.

Mr J H Mallen gave an overview of the discussion which took place at a meeting with the manageress of the Blue Boar public house and Town Clerk regarding a beer tent at the summer fete. She appeared very receptive and agreed to speak to both the owner of the pub and person

22/021. EVENTS (CONTINUED)

who ran the kitchen as they were two different businesses. He would get an update from her on the following Thursday.

The Town Clerk asked for volunteers to help with various aspects of the fete on the day.

Mr M G Callam, Ms D Coleman, Mrs J Leggett and Mr J H Mallen all volunteered.

22/022. CAFÉ' AT SPROWSTON RECREATION GROUND

Mr J H Mallen reported this subject had also been discussed at the meeting with the manageress of the Blue Boar PH and again she had expressed an interest and would speak with the owner of the public house and owner of the kitchen.

Mrs J Leggett updated the group on Food Hygiene Licences stating a 5 was preferable and a 4 acceptable.

The Town Clerk to clarify the tender process for applicants should the Blue Boar PH not be able to provide a pop-up café service at Sprowston recreation Ground.

22/023. TREE GRANT

The Town Clerk confirmed the tree grant application had been submitted however the deadline had been extended and he was now unsure when a decision would be made.

Ms D Coleman expressed concern as the planting season finished towards the end of March.

Mrs J Leggett to urge Broadland District Council for a decision.

The Town Clerk suggested this could be another opportunity for community planting.

22/024. ASSETS OF COMMUNITY VALUE

Whilst Sprowston Sports and Social Club was now registered as an asset of community value, registration of the Blue Boar PH was due to expire on 20 April 2022. It would be Council's decision if they wanted to apply for renewal to which the Group strongly recommended.

22/025. HARRISONS WOOD

Mrs J Leggett explained she had requested this item be placed on the agenda as having read through plans and papers for green infrastructure in Broadland it linked Harrisons Wood with Beeston Park and the Rackheath

22/025. HARRISONS WOOD (CONTINUED)

Buffer Zone and it now appeared to have become more than a local area of woodland.

Furthermore, whilst attending a tree planting event she had spoken to the Fringe Project who had previously carried out work in Harrisons Wood and

they suggested forming a group of people willing to work in the woodland called Friends of Harrisons Wood.

There was discussion about networking with smaller groups i.e., volunteers at the Tiny Forest planting event and participants in the verge rewilding scheme to see if they would be interested.

22/026. ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING

To continue with the same agenda items, excluding those already completed, for the next meeting of the Recreational Facilities Working Group.

22/027. AOB

Mrs J Leggett reported that the Greater Norwich Growth Board (GNGB) had funding moved from CIL receipts at a higher level for large projects.

She referred to Council previously discussing proposals for a sports hub however did not have sufficient land to advance the idea. Given progress of the Beeston Park development she asked if it was worth giving thought to putting a project forward to the GNGB as this seemed to be the only opportunity for Council to acquire land.

It was felt any possibility of obtaining funding to purchase land within the envelope of new developments should be explored.

Mrs Leggett to ascertain how the process worked for procuring a grant from the GNGB.

22/028. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Tuesday 1 March 2022 at 7.00pm