

## **RECREATIONAL FACILITIES WORKING GROUP MEETING – 12 APRIL 2022**

At the remote meeting of the Recreational Facilities Working Group held by video conference on Tuesday 12 April 2022, the following Councillors were present: -

Mrs J Leggett - Chairperson

Ms D Coleman - Mr M G Callam

Mr J H Mallen

In attendance

Mr G Ranaweera - Town Clerk and Responsible  
Financial Officer

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### **22/042. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

No apologies for absence were received.

### **22/043. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD 1 MARCH 2022**

Minutes of the meeting held on 1 March 2022 were agreed with no amendments.

### **22/044. MATTERS ARISING**

#### (a) Rewilding Verges

Ms D Coleman advised she had recently delivered four plaques to residents who had signed up for the rewilding scheme, making a total of nine participants from both Colindeep Lane and Cozens Hardy Road.

The Town Clerk advised two requests were currently being processed.

Ms D Coleman did not feel any further advertising was necessary as leaflets had been delivered on two occasions to all properties within the trial area. Any interested residents would make enquiries when they saw "No Mow" signage and rewilded verges.

Mrs J Leggett noted that given rewilding was constrained to verges adjacent properties it would limit the number of roads the scheme could be applied to.

There was discussion on possible obstacles to expanding the scheme to verges adjacent the highway including safety concerns and parking.

#### (b) Sprowston Youth Engagement Project (SYEP) Urban Garden

## **22/044. MATTERS ARISING (CONTINUED)**

The Town Clerk reported SYEP had been requested to provide 3 on-site parking spaces by the Planning Authority which would impact on the available amenity space.

He suggested the planning officer be advised that SYEP had use of the adjacent car park when required, thus negating the requirement for on-site parking.

### **(c) Sprowston Neighbourhood Plan**

Councillors noted the Sprowston Neighbourhood Plan draft updates had been agreed at full Council meeting held 16 March 2022 subject to amendments.

### **(d) Land North of Salhouse Road**

The Town Clerk reported he had been informed by the managing agent of the land North of Salhouse Road that it was not required for expansion of the neighbouring factory and was looking towards employment development instead. Whilst there is currently no opportunity to lease the land, the Town Clerk had expressed an interest with no obligation should it ever be offered for sale.

Mrs J Leggett commented that residents had made complaints at the recent Police Priority Setting meeting about noise nuisance from motorbikes being ridden on this land.

### **(e) Letter to Planning at Broadland**

Regarding provision of public amenity space in future largescale developments the Town Clerk referred to Council meeting held 6 April 2022 where it was agreed Mrs J Leggett, the Town Clerk and any other available Councillors attend a meeting with planning officers at Broadland District Council on 28 April 2022.

Representatives from Broadland District Council attending this meeting had been confirmed as Helen Mellors, Assistant Director of Planning, Tracey Lincoln, Development Manager and Paul Harris, Place Shaping Manager.

## **22/045. VIKING CENTRE**

The Town Clerk said he was waiting for Jason Menezes to draft the planning application for development of the Viking Centre. Mr Menezes had been invited to attend full Council meeting on 27 April 2022 to present plans should they be available.

In advance of the planning application being submitted Leylandii trees on the property boundary, which were causing a nuisance to neighbours, had been removed. Two remained on land retained by the previous owner of the site.

## **22/045. VIKING CENTRE**

In response to Councillors questions the Town Clerk explained:

- (a) approximately £170,000 in CIL receipts had been received in April 2021 and £278,000 in October 2021. All funds received in April 2021 had been spent on the purchase of the former Viking PH / Bengal Restaurant. There was currently £270,000 remaining in the budget. He would confirm payments due to be received in April 2022.
- (b) Adopting highway land to construct a pathway, and securing of the car park were all part of the planning application however, he had verbally discussed this with the newly appointed Highways Engineer.

## **22/046. SKATE PARK**

The Town Clerk advised he was awaiting revised plans from the developers and had no further update.

Referring to pictures of Loddon skate park sent to Councillors and the Town Clerk, Mrs J Leggett said whilst the sketch presented to Councillors had looked lovely, in reality the park appeared abandoned.

The Town Clerk responded that an additional grounds person was being recruited partially to avoid this situation in Sprowston.

Councillors again expressed their extreme frustration with ongoing delays caused by developers and did not understand why the Planning Authority could not apply pressure to progress implementation.

The Town Clerk said he was meeting representatives from Persimmon Homes on 20 April 2022 when he hoped revised plans would be available. He would inform developers of Councillors desire to meet with them

## **22/047. ADULT GYM AND RUNNING TRACK**

Mr J H Mallen noted the running track had been mown at Barkers Lane open space however, there was an infestation of moles in the area.

The Town Clerk remarked on the running club not having expressed an interest in provision of outside gym equipment at Barkers Lane. He was also unsure if there was an appetite for provision elsewhere in the parish. It was noted the scheme at White House Farm development did include this type of equipment.

Mrs J Leggett suggested an article in Sprowston Matters explaining where Council was considering placing equipment and ask for resident's views.

## **22/048. EVENTS**

### (a) Platinum Jubilee

The Town Clerk confirmed a majority of the work to host this event was now complete.

Mr J H Mallen questioned if the number of attendees could be increased.

The Town Clerk replied given safety constraints of the site attendees could be increased to 70, including Councillors and staff, if vegetation was cut back to create additional space.

It was noted that whilst a discussion had taken place Council did not agree any other suggestions on how to celebrate the Platinum Jubilee and had instead agreed to hold a joint event with the church.

### (b) Summer Fete

The Town Clerk reported that:

- (i) a beer tent had been secured and The Fat Cat Brewery Tap would be serving draft beer, gin and soft drinks.
- (ii) Local Flavours had organised approximately 6 food vendors.
- (iii) the Blue Boar PH did not have the facility to support outside events unless on their own premises.
- (iv) basic fairground rides had been sourced.
- (v) community groups had been approached and some completed applications submitted.
- (vi) Norfolk Constabulary would be in attendance.
- (vii) a display for the arena arranged.
- (viii) the office would continue to look for more activities and other providers.
- (ix) he would approach St. Johns Ambulance for First Aid provision.
- (x) as no response had been received from the Brickmakers PH he would approach local bands suggested by Ms D Coleman.

Mr J H Mallen said he had enlisted a team of people to help on the day of the event with an inventory of agreed tasks.

## **22/049. CAFÉ' AT SPROWSTON RECREATION GROUND**

With regard to a pop-up café at Sprowston Recreation Ground the Town Clerk had been advised to contact the planning authority to determine if planning permission and/or a licence was required.

He thanked Mr Mallen for supplying a list of potential candidates explaining he would contact all interested parties with a generic letter or email so that everyone received the same information at the same time.

## **22/050. TREE GRANT**

Mrs J Leggett thanked Cllr. Coleman for her involvement in the successful community planting event at Sprowston Diamond Field.

Ms D Colman mentioned funding might be available to extend the hedge planting to the boundary adjacent Neville Road in the Autumn.

The Town Clerk reassured Councillors that grounds staff were watering the recently planted hedge at the Diamond Field and Tiny Forest on Sprowston Recreation Ground during the weather.

In response to an enquiry from Mr J H Mallen the Town Clerk confirmed he would be inviting Broadland Tree Wardens to a future meeting of full council.

## **22/051. ASSETS OF COMMUNITY VALUE**

The Town Clerk advised there was no further update with regard to the review of the decision to list Sprowston Sports and Social Club as an Asset of Community Value.

Council had already agreed to re-nominate the Blue Boar PH, Aslake Close Community Hub and Sprowston Cricket Club to the Asset of Community Value Register.

## **22/052. HARRISONS WOOD**

Mrs J Leggett referred to a suggestion from the Fringe Project that Harrisons Woodland would benefit from a friends or volunteer group.

Ms D Coleman commented on activities carried out by other friend's groups in the Broadland area such as litter picking and monitoring for damage with more skilled activities such as coppicing and hedge laying led by experts.

A friend's group could be established to carry out these types of activities in Harrison Woodland with members highlighting any concerns to the Town Clerk. Norfolk Wildlife Trust and / or Natural England could be invited to organise and lead projects involving the volunteer group such as planting, coppicing or cutting brambles.

It was agreed Mrs J Leggett to discuss with the Fringe Project and the Town Clerk to gather more information.

**22/053. ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING**

No further items were requested.

**22/054. AOB**

No other business.

**22/055. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

Tuesday 10 May 2022 at 7.00pm