RECREATIONAL FACILITIES WORKING GROUP MEETING – 10 FEBRUARY 2023

At the remote meeting of the Recreational Facilities Working Group held by video conference on Friday 10 February 2023, the following Councillors were present:-

Mrs J Leggett – Chairperson

Mr M A Booth - Ms D Coleman Mr W F Couzens - Mr J H Mallen

In attendance

Mr G Ranaweera - Town Clerk and Responsible

Financial Officer

23/015. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Mr M G Callam.

23/016. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD 13 JANUARY 2023

Minutes of the meeting held on 13 January 2023 were agreed without amendment:

23/017. MATTERS ARISING

No matters arising.

23/018. VIKING CENTRE

The Town Clerk displayed a revised site plan following an objection from Norfolk County Council (NCC) Highways for encroaching on the Highway boundary.

He explained the bin store had been relocated and fence at the south west corner of the plot set back.

Jason Menezes was hopeful the revised planning application would be approved the following week.

The Town Clerk suggested Council could open future discussions with NCC Highways with regard to adopting the verge, creating a public footpath at Council's expense and incorporating the unused verge into the car park.

He reported Jason was arranging preliminary preparatory strip out work which could be executed without planning permission and presented a quotation from NORMOVE for removal of flooring, bar, kitchen, ceilings, walls to remove air conditioning and heating units, tidy and remove rubbish from rear garden, also remove sheds and conservatory at a total cost of

23/018. VIKING CENTRE (CONTINUED)

£6,500 plus VAT. Expected completion of these works end of February 2023.

Councillors queried if the quotation included disposal fees. The Town Clerk confirmed it did.

The Town Clerk confirmed he had informed local businesses of imminent redevelopment and advised they could no longer park on site.

He would arrange for the For Sale sign to be removed and erect new signage.

23/019. BROADLAND DISTRICT COUNCIL BEESTON PARK DEVELOPMENT

Mr W F Couzens reported on his attendance at a Beeston Park development meeting.

At the meeting he had enquired about gritting of Atlantic Avenue and provision of dog bins on the White House Farm housing estate to be advised that Norfolk County Council could not grit until the road had been adopted.

Chris Raine Broadland District Council Planning Development Manager agreed to speak to developers about taking responsibility for gritting of this roadway, or alternatively for them to pay Norfolk County Council to grit on their behalf.

Chris Raine to also approach officers at South Norfolk and Broadland District Council regarding the Town Council's request for five additional dog bins on the White House Farm estate.

Given the District Council was emptying two existing dog bins on the estate twice a week and all other dog bins in Sprowston once a week Mr Couzens had suggested the District Council could make a cost saving if the estate had more bins and one run across the parish.

Councillors expressed concern as to whether NCC would add Atlantic Avenue to their gritting run if adopted as it had been highlighted, they were already at capacity.

Responding to a question from Mrs J Leggett, Mr Couzens said he was hopeful the District Council would provide and empty dog bins on the estate.

Mrs J Leggett remarked that some planning applications specify dog bins, bat boxes etc.

With regard to open spaces on the White House Farm Estate developers were waiting for up-to-date plans before they could clear, level and seed. Once received they would commence screening.

23/019. <u>BROADLAND DISTRICT COUNCIL BEESTON PARK DEVELOPMENT</u> (CONTINUED)

It was resolved Mr W F Couzens follow up with Chris Raines in two weeks' time.

Mrs J Leggett emphasised the importance of ensuring operational recreational areas, provision, location and emptying of dog bins and gritting of unadopted roads were nailed down for the Beeston Park development.

23/020. SUMMER FETE - 2023

The Town Clerk reported he had not recently focussed on the summer fete however hoped to concentrate his time on it during the following week.

There is a front-page article in the spring edition of Sprowston Matters to be delivered prior to the start of purdah. It would be advertised on Facebook and Council's website. Emphasis was currently on promoting and organising the window display competition in celebration of the King's Coronation.

The office had received a number of requests for a stall at the fete following his contact with previous and potential participants.

A scale of fees would be forth coming.

He welcomed Councillors ideas for arena acts and the following suggestions were made:

Foolhardy Circus, SYEP, Agility dog show and motorbike display.

23/021. CORONATION OF KING CHARLES III - CELEBRATION EVENT

The Town Clerk reported there is a front-page article in the spring edition of Sprowston Matters.

- Registration for participants will close on 21 April 2023.
- The trail will officially run Saturday 6 to Monday 8 May 2023.
- A list of participants with voting slip will be available from the Council office or could be downloaded from the website from 28 April 2023.

Ms D Coleman though it would be a nice idea to include a commercial prize for best commercial premises. Perhaps a certificate or rosette.

The Town Clerk advised businesses had been invited to participate.

23/022. WHITE HOUSE FARM PLAY EQUIPMENT, SKATE PARK

It was noted under minute 23/019 developers were waiting for updated plans before progressing with provision of the open space areas.

Mr M A Booth asked how long Council should wait for a response with regard to provision of dog bins before funding this service themselves. Mrs

23/022. WHITE HOUSE FARM PLAY EQUIPMENT, SKATE PARK (CONTINUED)

Leggett suggested waiting until Mr Couzens had followed up with Chris Raines.

The Town Clerk advised Council were not permitted to erect dog bins on private unadopted land.

Mr W F Couzens referred to the mediation period after adoption of highways which can cause further delays.

The Town Clerk thought developers would be keen to hand over some responsibilities before conclusion of the mediation period such as emptying of dog bins.

23/023. BARKERS LANE SHELTER

Councillors noted the quotation for painting of the shelter at Barkers Lane open space. Full Council had previously agreed to pay for materials and Sprowston Youth Engagement Project (SYEP) to pay for the artist's time.

Mrs J Leggett to discuss with SYEP at their meeting on Wednesday 15 February 2023.

23/024 TREE GRANT AND WWI COMMEMORATIVE TREES

Mr M A Booth suggested adding 1939 - 1945 to wording of the memorial plaques, representative of a general war memorial to both world wars.

Wood and concrete materials for signage was discussed.

Ms D Coleman to obtain examples and costs for wooden signage at each location.

The Town Clerk suggested non-metallic no scrap value signs similar to some of the park signage.

Ms D Coleman questioned the availability of funding.

Mrs J Leggett reported a new District Council scheme would be available from 1 April 2023 and there is also District Councillors Members Ward funding of £500.00.

23/025. REWILDING VERGES

Referring to Minute 23/013, rewilding on Roundtree Way to link the woodland adjacent Sapphire House with Mousehold.

Councillors could see little opportunity for rewilding in this area other than encouraging businesses to erect raised beds or plant pots and felt Harrisons woodland and Cottage plantation would be preferable.

23/025. REWILDING VERGESU (CONTINUED)

Mrs J Leggett to ask the group requesting rewilding to suggest specific locations where rewilding could be implemented.

The Town Clerk to recontact Cambridge University's agent in relation to vacant land north of Salhouse Road in the summer.

23/026. BYSTANDERS CRICKET CLUB

The Town Clerk reported:

- (1) He had received Bystanders cricket club's insurance details.
- (2) He had a start date for the season and was expecting fixtures shortly.
- (3) Pitch preparation would be carried out in March and April.
- (4) He would arrange a meeting between the cricket club and resident football clubs.
- (5) The cricket club would like to hold an open committee meeting giving club members an opportunity to see the facilities and invite all Councillors to attend.

Mrs J Leggett raised concern with regard to the pavilion floor and enquired as to where the limit of thirty-five people came from.

Town Clerk to clarify.

23/027. AOB

(1) Hedgehog Signage

The Town Clerk confirmed small mammal signage had been requested from Norfolk County Council approximately two years prior and numerous emails sent to the Highways Engineer to progress.

Councillor J M Ward was also pursuing this with Norfolk County Council.

Mrs J Leggett offered to make enquiries.

In response to a question from Ms D Coleman the Town Clerk confirmed hedgehog leaflets and signage not distributed at the 2022 fete could be distributed at the 2023 fete.

(2) Café

The Town Clerk said he would be unable to look into the provision of a self-contained mobile café in any more detail given his current workload priorities.

23/027. AOB (CONTINUED)

In the short term the identified location for a mobile cafe would be parking spaces nearest the pavilion toilets. However, in the longer term he envisaged these spaces being used as electric charging points and to relocate the café behind the speed limit sign and noticeboard on the recreation ground with possible hardstanding if proved popular.

Mr J H Mallen suggested the Bystanders Cricket Club be informed this facility would potentially be provided.

(3) Dogs on Sprowston Recreation Ground

Ms D Coleman commented she had noticed some users of the recreation ground walking large numbers of dogs were unable to keep them under control and questioned if Council should limit the number of dogs being walked per person.

Having taken advice from Broadland District Council's regulatory team Mrs J Leggett said the Council would require a Public Open Spaces Protection Order or Bylaw to restrict the numbers of dogs per person.

Ms D Coleman had also noticed dogs being exercised in the tennis courts and basketball court and again questioned if Council should provide an enclosed, chargeable facility for this purpose.

Councillors felt this would be difficult to administer and regulate.

It was resolved to monitor the situation and place advisory notices around the recreation ground.

23/028. DATE OF NEXT MEETINGS

Monday 13 March 2023 commencing 4.00pm.