

## **RECREATIONAL FACILITIES WORKING GROUP MEETING – 11 APRIL 2023**

At the remote meeting of the Recreational Facilities Working Group held by video conference on Tuesday 11 April 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

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### **23/041. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Mr J H Mallen.

### **23/042. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD 15 MARCH 2023**

Minutes of the meeting held on 15 March 2023 were agreed subject to the following amendment:

Minute 23/032, **delete** Mrs W F Couzens and **insert** Mr W F Couzens.

### **23/043. MATTERS ARISING**

No matters arising.

### **23/044. VIKING CENTRE**

The Town Clerk reported he was still waiting for planning permission for redevelopment of the Viking Centre despite Bidwells pursuing with the Planning Authority.

Council's Architect had confirmed the central concrete post in the area identified for a communal café could be removed at an additional cost.

He was attending a meeting with Council's Architect on Friday 21 April 2023 to discuss specifications and finishes all Councillors were invited to attend.

### **23/045. BROADLAND DISTRICT COUNCIL BEESTON PARK DEVELOPMENT**

Mr W F Couzens reported he had raised the Town Clerks concerns with Chris Reins regarding parking, changing rooms and access. Mr Reins agreed they needed to be resolved.

He referred to an article in the media regarding a new owner for the development site. It was thought more likely the land would have been purchased by an investor rather than developers.

**23/045. BROADLAND DISTRICT COUNCIL BEESTON PARK DEVELOPMENT (CONTINUED)**

Having previously gained agreement from the District Council that Beeston Park would be open to the public prior to commencement of the second phase, Mr Couzens had been informed this agreement would be honoured regardless of site owner.

He had also apprised Mr Raines of the need for affordable housing particularly smaller one-, two- and three-bedroom properties.

Mrs J Leggett felt the development would come forward in portions and it was important to ensure the associated conditions were met. There would be conditions at both outline and reserved matters. Councillors needed to satisfy themselves that planners were fully aware of the conditions as some planners were more au fait than others.

Ms D Coleman questioned why solar panels were not a requirement for all new properties.

Mrs J Leggett to clarify with the District Council.

**23/046. SUMMER FETE - 2023**

The Town Clerk reported applications from stallholders and food vendors continued to be received.

Volunteers would be required to marshal the bouncy castles and car parks.

**23/047. CORONATION OF KING CHARLES III - CELEBRATION EVENT**

Council noted one application had been received to participate in the window or garden display competition.

The Town Clerk confirmed he had written to all Sprowston business, advertised in Sprowston Matters, Facebook and Council's noticeboards. He did not feel there was enough support for the trail to take place.

Ms D Coleman had also tried to generate interest in the event to no avail.

It was agreed:

- (1) to continue advertising for participants until the closing date and if no further interest, cancel the trail.
- (2) Town Clerk to enquire if Aslake Close Growers could enlarge their display and hold a plant sale. If agreed Council to direct residents to this event.
- (3) Advertise the screening of the coronation at St. Cuthberts Church.

### **23/048. WHITE HOUSE FARM PLAY EQUIPMENT, SKATE PARK**

Mr W F Cozens reported he had visited sites L15 Waxwing Way and L5 rear of White House Farm School. There was no evidence of any digging or levelling at either site. Unless grounds work commenced soon neither site will be ready to receive play equipment or open for the summer holidays. He had voiced his concerns to Chris Reigns on a conference call.

Whilst dog and waste bins have been marked on the plans, they are not very easy to see.

With regard to use of Glyphosates Chris Raines is contacting developers to see if works could proceed without the use of Glyphosates.

The Town Clerk advised he had contacted Matthew Wright with regard to this matter and read out Matthew's response. Developers intended to continue with use of Glyphosates.

Councillors were pleased to note an arrangement had been made for gritting of Atlantic Avenue, paid for by the developer.

Mr W F Couzens observed that diversion signs directed traffic to Blue Boar Lane instead of Atlantic Avenue because of its unadopted status.

### **23/049. BARKERS LANE SHELTER**

Councillors noted the shelter at Barkers Lane open space is to be painted by Sprowston Youth Engagement Project (SYEP) on Thursday 13 April 2023.

### **23/050. TREE GRANT AND WWI COMMEMORATIVE TREES**

Four sites had previously been agreed, the number of trees available to plant would depend on funding and the planting season commenced in October.

The Town Clerk had discussed planting of trees on the Cannerby Lane green with Norfolk County Council's Highway Engineer who had agreed to check the specification for underground drainage works. However, he had confirmed like for like tree planting and wild flower planting were acceptable.

### **23/051. AOB**

#### (1) Hedgehog Signage

Mrs J Leggett advised receipt of Hedgehog Signage was imminent.

#### (2) Café

No further update.

#### (3) Pesticides and Glyphosates

## **23/051. AOB (CONTINUED)**

Ms D Coleman enquired if the Town Council could prohibit the use of pesticides and glyphosates in Council owned public areas, and encourage local business to follow Councils example.

In response the Town Clerk advised Council could decide on the most appropriate weed control measures to use on all Council owned land and potentially work with external organisations.

The Town Clerk requested Ms D Coleman to:

- (1) Provide a list of weed control products she felt should be prohibited for discussion with the Head Groundsman as to alternatives.
- (2) Prepare a hearts and minds article for inclusion in Sprowston Matters and Facebook should Council resolve to prohibit use of pesticides.

### **(4) Expansion of Verge Re-wilding Scheme**

Ms D Coleman asked if the re-wilding scheme could be expanded into other parts of Sprowston where verges were adjacent residents' properties.

The Town Clerk confirmed this would have to be considered and agreed by Full-council.

### **(5) Diamond Field Re-wilding**

Ms D Colman said she had marked out an area of the Diamond Field where wild Orchids were growing and requested Council's approval for a volunteer group to re-wild a corner of the field and weed and mulch the hedge adjacent to School Lane.

The Town Clerk agreed to:

- (1) arrange for SYEP to move their goal posts from the Diamond Field.
- (2) place an item on the agenda for Full Council's consideration.

As it was the last meeting prior to elections Mrs J Leggett thanked Councillors for their enthusiasm and asked if a recommendation should be made to the new Council for the Recreational Facilities Working Group to continue. Councillors were unanimous in their agreement.

## **23/052. DATE OF NEXT MEETINGS**

Tuesday 23 May 2023 commencing 4.30pm.