

**RECREATIONAL FACILITIES WORKING GROUP MEETING – 15 SEPTEMBER  
2023**

At the remote meeting of the Recreational Facilities Working Group held by video conference on Tuesday 8 August 2023, the following Councillors were present:-

Cllr. J Leggett – Chairperson

Cllr. M G Callam - Cllr. D Coleman  
Cllr. W F Couzens - Cllr. J H Mallen

In attendance

Mr G Ranaweera - Town Clerk and Responsible  
Financial Officer

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**23/097. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from Cllrs. M A Booth and S D Booth.

**23/098. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD 8 AUGUST 2023**

Minutes of the meeting held on 8 August 2023 were approved without amendment.

**23/099. MATTERS ARISING**

(1) Sprowston Football Club

It was agreed to refer Sprowston Football Club to land identified in the GNLP call for sites located to the west of Wroxham Road between Beeston Lane and the Broadland Northway known as GNLP0042.

(2) Neighbourhood Plan Working Group

Full Council had resolved to place an item on the agenda at their September meeting to select a working group to review the Sprowston Neighbourhood Plan for Council's consideration.

Cllr. J H Mallen queried if there was an opportunity to resolve the ongoing issues around parking on the A1151 Wroxham Road between the junctions of Merlin Avenue and Falcon Road East during this review.

**23/100. VIKING CENTRE**

It was noted the timeline had slipped.

The Town Clerk advised he was waiting for the mechanical and electrical engineer's input to the specification before tender documents could be sent. However, outline project details were available on contract finder for the expression of interest.

### **23/100. VIKING CENTRE (CONTINUED)**

The Building Control invoice had been received and was due for payment.

The advertising banner would be erected next week.

Town Clerk to check if fencing to prevent access to the rear of the building was still in place.

### **23/101. BROADLAND DISTRICT COUNCIL BEESTON PARK DEVELOPMENT**

No further update. Guidance still to be sought from Chris Raine regarding the possibility of land available for purchase within the Beeston Park development albeit at premium development rate.

### **23/102. SUMMER FETE - 2023**

Total expenditure before income £12,393.78. Income to date £880.00 with 10% profit of beer sales still awaited bringing the overall cost of the fete under budget.

The Town Clerk recommended a budget increase if Council decides to hold a fete in 2024. This would allow for inflation and additional acts in the arena.

Equipment purchases can be reused.

There was discussion regarding purchase of a stretch tent however given the manpower, skill and time required to erect, this idea was not pursued.

In answer to Cllr. J H Mallen's questions the Town Clerk clarified:

- On-costs related to employers' pension and national insurance contributions.
- Additional insurance was required to cover volunteers supervising inflatables.

Cllr. J H Mallen suggested reducing future costs by approaching groups and individuals to get involved for free. i.e., the Methodist Boys Brigade Marching Band

He also expressed surprise that the Brewery Tap had not declared their profits and paid the 10%.

The Town Clerk said he had been assured it would be declared on Monday 18 September 2023.

Cllr. J H Mallen mentioned he had received some comments saying the site was too widely spread and it was a challenge to access all activities. He felt the hired toilets were under used and this could be due to the distance from the main event.

## **23/102. SUMMER FETE - 2023 (CONTINUED)**

Cllr. W F Couzens commented that whilst some attendees felt the site was too expansive others preferred the openness.

The Town Clerk explained the size of the arena, which was considerably bigger this year, had dictated the layout and some attendees were strategically positioned i.e., the Fire Engine and Police vehicles to enable a quick exit in the event of an emergency. Although, having seen the drone photos he could see where improvements could be made.

Cllr. J Leggett asked if Council had considered hosting a car display at the same time as the fete to add interest. She also felt additional provision of chairs would be appreciated.

Proprietors of the fairground rides had advised the Town Clerk of their availability being 13 and 20 July 2024. He would now contact suppliers of the inflatables and toilets to ascertain if they were free on either of these dates.

## **23/103. WHITEHOUSE FARM DEVELOPMENT AND PLANNING APPLICATION 2023/1943 (DETAILS OF CONDITION 21 OF 20140652- (21) LANDSCAPE PROPOSALS) LAND AT BLUE BOAR LANE**

Cllr. W F Couzens reported he had seen workmen removing fencing at two play areas on the Whitehouse Farm development, making them accessible to the public. The fence between the play area and White House Farm School remained in-situ. Fencing had been erected adjacent the land earmarked for the skatepark.

Cllr. D Coleman raised concern regarding installation of play equipment prior to any grounds work being carried out and grass seeding in gravel. She questioned if this had been rectified.

The Town Clerk advised he would be visiting site with the Compliance officer and will compare installed equipment against plans from Emily Liscomb. He would inspect the surfacing and if equipment was age appropriate and fit for purpose.

30 litre dog bins had been provided instead of the standard 40 litre.

Town Clerk to provide a progress report following his inspection.

Cllr. M G Callam expressed concern that he could not find a plan which identified the location of the skatepark.

The Town Clerk said it had been agreed that developers would prepare the land before transferring to Council. He suggested this be discussed with Chris Raine and Helen Mellors at the Beeston Park meeting prior to raising with developers.

**23/103. WHITEHOUSE FARM DEVELOPMENT AND PLANNING APPLICATION  
2023/1943 (DETAILS OF CONDITION 21 OF 20140652- (21) LANDSCAPE  
PROPOSALS) LAND AT BLUE BOAR LANE**

Cllr. D Coleman had contacted the RMG group with regard to the replacement of dead trees and been assured planting would take place in November.

**23/104. TREE GRANT AND WWI COMMEMORATIVE TREES**

Funding to be sought.

**23/105. NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN**

Cllr. M A Booth had identified and an officer at Broadland District Council who supported Town and Parsh Councils with Neighbourhood Plans and once a working group had been established would give them a briefing.

A briefing document had previously been circulated to Council.

Cllr. J H Mallen volunteered to be considered as a potential member of the, to be identified, Neighbourhood Plan Working Group.

**23/106. AOB**

(1) Norfolk Wildlife Trust - Visit to Burston

Cllr. D Coleman and Cllr. J H Mallen reported on their visit to Burston organised by Norfolk Wildlife Trust demonstrating how parish and town councils can rewild and make the most of their green spaces.

Cllr. D Coleman referred to how an accessible path around the perimeter of a field had revolutionised its use, not cutting the BMX track to encourage wild life and biodiversity, blossom circles to create interest amongst other examples.

Cllr. J H Mallen had been told that whilst there was enthusiasm to prepare and plant areas for rewilding, volunteers dwindled when it came to long term maintenance.

It was noted that Norfolk County Council's Parish Partnership Scheme included match funding for Trod footways, and some gravel companies would offer financial assistance.

Ideas discussed for Sprowston included:

- Hard surfaced Trod on Sprowston Recreation Ground along the perimeter from Edwards Road car park to woods;
- Extending the accessible footpath in Millennium Woodland;

### **23/106. AOB (CONTINUED)**

- Continuation of the footpath from White House Farm School along Salhouse Road to safely connect Greenborough Road for pedestrians and cyclists;

Cllr. J Leggett to raise this with Chris Raine as a path had been included in previous plans.

- Pathway, flowers and blossoming trees on Cannerby Lane Green;
- Rewilding Sprowston Diamond Field, depending on future usage.

Given there was financial implications associated with any rewilding project Cllr. J Leggett enquired if there were sufficient funds available to redevelop the Viking Centre.

The Town Clerk confirmed Council had received over £1.2m in Community Infrastructure Levy Receipts with some smaller amounts due in October 2023. Council also had £0.75m in general reserves.

Cllr. J Leggett referred to the Street Lighting replacement scheme to which the Town Clerk agreed would take a large proportion of this funding unless Council decided to take out a loan.

Cllr. D Coleman remarked Norfolk Wildlife Trust were running a scheme offering 100 complimentary trees should Council be interested.

### **23/107. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

Tuesday 10 October 2023 at 4.00pm