

**RECREATIONAL FACILITIES WORKING GROUP MEETING – 08 NOVEMBER
2023**

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

Cllr. J Leggett - Chairperson

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

In attendance

Mr G Ranaweera	-	Town Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer
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23/119. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

No apologies for absence were received.

23/120. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD 10 OCTOBER 2023

Minutes of the meeting held on 10 October 2023 were approved without amendment.

23/121. MATTERS ARISING

(1) Sprowston Football Club

Further to Minute 23/110 (1), Town Clerk's discussion with Sprowston Football Club regarding 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 has not yet taken place.

(2) Viking Centre Car Park

Further to Minute 23/110 (2), grounds staff will erect the advertising banner at the Viking Centre shortly.

(3) Sprowston Diamond Field

In response to a question regarding the long-term purpose of the Diamond Field the Town Clerk advised that it was only used occasionally and on a casual hire basis.

There is enough space for a five-a-side football pitch however there is no requirement at the moment. Sprowston FC have reduced the number of seven-a-side pitches at Sprowston Recreation Ground and increased the number of five-a-side pitches resulting in more matches of shorter duration thus increasing throughput.

23/121. MATTERS ARISING (CONTINUED)

It was agreed to include the future of the Diamond Field into the Sprowston Neighbourhood Plan review.

23/122. VIKING CENTRE

The Town Clerk reported:

- (1) The Tender closes 12 noon, 1 December 2023.
- (2) Tenders to be opened at 12.30pm on 1 December 2023
- (3) There has been a good level of interest.
- (4) The Building Control fee has been paid.

23/123. BROADLAND DISTRICT COUNCIL BEESTON PARK DEVELOPMENT

Cllr. W F Couzens reported on his attendance at a meeting with District Council officers where he had been assured developers would soon be in contact with the Town Council to discuss details of the development and clarify what facilities the Town Council would like provided.

It was agreed to place an item on the agenda of full Council meeting to be held 6 December 2023 to discuss and agree Councils requirements for recreational and health facilities prior to meeting with developers.

Town Clerk to prepare a report on suggested requirements.

23/124. SUMMER FETE - 2024

The Town Clerk confirmed most principal items were in place for the 2024 summer fete.

He was waiting for Foolhardy Circus to amend their invoice proposal as it did not contain all items requested before confirming their booking.

Proprietors of hired in inflatables do not want children with painted faces on their bouncy castles as paint stains the surfaces. This would reduce business for the face painter and it is a matter he is trying to resolve.

Now that annual allotment invoices have been sent and mostly paid, he will contact all previous stallholders and send application forms.

He was still looking for arena acts.

Cllr. J H Mallen asked if the scouts and guides had been contacted as he was keen for them to be involved with their community.

23/125. SUMMER FETE – 2024 (CONTINUED)

The Town Clerk replied that whilst organising the D-Day 80 celebrations he had contacted the Air Cadets who are keen to perform a drill display at the event to be held at St. Mary and St. Margaret's church.

During this conversation he had asked if they would be interested in volunteering to help with the fete. If he does not receive confirmation of their attendance at the fete within a few months he would reach out to other community groups.

The marquee for the PA system and Chairman is still to be purchased.

Sprowston Matters is to be delivered in the next few weeks and is advertising the fete.

The Kemps men have responded and are considering if they have availability.

Cllr. M G Callam confirmed Sprowston churches would again be attending the fete.

23/126. WHITE HOUSE FARM UPDATE

Cllr. M A Booth said he had finally managed to get both dog and waste bins emptied and would continue to monitor it. He had emailed a long list of problems with RMG to Chris Raine for him to raise with them.

Cllr. S D Booth commented that she was receiving complaints about the quality of work in some houses built by Taylor Wimpey.

Cllr. J H Mallen reported he had looked at play equipment and surfacing installed by developers at L5, land to the rear of White House Farm Primary School, and concurred with the Town Clerk that it was not as Council requested or of a suitable age range or standard.

The Town Clerk to compare equipment provided by developers to equipment requested by Council to equipment authorised by the District Council to clarify what happened.

It was felt the equipment installed in the play area off Overstrand Way designed for younger children appeared adequate.

The Town Clerk questioned if the maintenance charge paid by residents would be reduced when Council takes over responsibility for the area.

Cllr. M A Booth agreed to find out.

With regard to the play equipment adjacent to the skatepark the Town Clerk recommended Council request a commuted sum from developers and organise the procurement and installation of this facility themselves, although the District Council would have to agree to this.

23/127. WHITE HOUSE FARM DEVELOPMENT AND PLANNING APPLICATION 2023/1943 (DETAILS OF CONDITION 21 OF 20140652- (21) LANDSCAPE PROPOSALS) LAND AT BLUE BOAR LANE

Cllr. J Leggett reiterated the need for a pedestrian crossing on Atlantic Avenue to access White House Farm retail park. She would pursue this again with County Councillor John Fisher.

Cllr. J Leggett also suggested an in person meeting with detailed plans of the landscape proposal for land at Blue Boar Lane available in an easily readable format.

It was agreed the Town Clerk arrange a meeting with planning officers.

23/128. TREE GRANT AND WWI COMMEMORATIVE TREES

Having taken advice from the Head Groundsman and given the eventual size of a mature tree canopy, the Town Clerk presented outline designs, for previously agreed open spaces, each incorporating three trees with central flower bed for poppies.

A variety of Silver Birches at Sparhawk Park as they are open leaf and form a narrow, conical shape, ideal in a more restricted space.

Oak, London Plane and Horse Chestnut at Wilks Farm Drive as there is sufficient space for the broad spreading crown of these large mature trees.

Maple, Rowan and one other medium size species to be decided at Windsor Park Gardens albeit in a different location to originally discussed to avoid impinging on the open play space.

Area L5, land to rear of White House Farm Primary School, to be agreed when Council adopts the parks and open spaces.

To ensure community involvement Cllr. D Coleman suggested volunteers could, depending on the time of year, plant Daffodil, Bluebell or Snowdrop bulbs around the base of the trees.

Plaques to be organised following planting.

The Town Clerk to apply for funding now that the quantity, species and location of trees had been decided.

23/129. SPROWSTON NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

The Town Clerk reported:

- (1) A steering group needs to be formed
- (2) District Council Officer Richard Squires had sent through sample terms of reference and a list of planning consultants for taking the plan forward.

23/129. SPROWSTON NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN (CONTINUED)

- (3) The anticipated timeframe for completion is 18 to 24 months.
- (4) Even though grant funding is available there will be a cost to Council. The recommendation is approximately £10,000 which will be included in the 2024/25 budget.
- (5) In accordance with Council's Standing Orders there is no reason the steering group cannot include members of the community.
- (6) A consultation event could be held at the 2024 summer fete followed by a mail out to ensure all residents and businesses in Sprowston have an opportunity to share their views.
- (7) An item to be placed on the agenda at a future full Council meeting.

23/130. AOB

To reduce inappropriate use of the enclosed play area, bike track and tennis courts Cllr. W F Couzens suggested erecting a fence from the tennis courts to the fence at the rear of properties on Edwards Road to provide a secure dog walking area.

Cllr. D Coleman felt those owners exercising their pets in the enclosed areas wanted to keep their dogs away from other dogs.

With limited space on Sprowston Recreation Ground the Town Clerk would not like a tennis court transferred into an enclosed, secure dog walking area as it is unlikely to ever be returned to its original use.

It was felt that a fence would help differentiate areas of use on the Recreation Ground.

There is a Bylaw which allows Council to ban people from the Recreation Ground however, it is difficult to enforce.

It was agreed the Town Clerk to obtain costs for the erection of a fence and place an item on the agenda for a future meeting of full Council.

Cllr. J Leggett asked Councillors if there was any other topics the working group should be considering. The group felt there wasn't.

23/131. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Tuesday 12 December at 4.00pm.