

RECREATIONAL FACILITIES WORKING GROUP MEETING – 12 JULY 2022

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

Mrs J Leggett – Chairperson

Mr M G Callam - Mr W F Couzens
Ms D Coleman

In attendance

Mr G Ranaweera - Town Clerk and Responsible
Financial Officer

22/084. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Mr J H Mallen.

22/085. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD 21 JUNE 2022

Minutes of the meeting held on 21 June 2022 were agreed subject to the following amendment:

Minute 22/075 (3), delete £235,00.00 and insert £235,000.00

22/086. MATTERS ARISING

(1) Café at Recreation Ground

Pending the Town Clerk's workload

(2) Harrisons Wood

It was previously agreed to:

- postpone the formation of a friend's group
- carry out an event in the Autumn in liaison with Broadland District Council.

No further discussion took place.

(3) White House Farm Development - Open Space

Further to Minute 22/076, the Town Clerk confirmed he had been assured by Persimmon Homes developers that the open space L5, large park area to rear of White House Farm School, would open to the public on Friday 15 July 2022.

22/087. VIKING CENTRE

The Town Clerk advised he was liaising with the regional surveyor at EE who required specific measurements on the available access to the side of the property. Councils' architect was currently amending plans to show the exact distance from the external wall of the building to the mast. Once available the surveyor will be able to ascertain if the current plans provide sufficient access.

22/088. SKATE PARK

The Town Clerk reported that with the help of Broadland District Council's Section 106 officer Emily Lipscomb he had managed to negotiate additional play equipment for the skatepark and play areas at the White House Farm development for the same cost.

He had arranged for developers to attend the Council meeting to be held 3 August 2022.

22/089. ADULT GYM AND RUNNING TRACK

It was agreed the working group to recommend to full Council that provision of adult gym equipment should be put on hold until the success of similar equipment to be provided at White House Farm development is assessed.

Ms D Colman advised the running track on Barkers Lane was being used by a weekly keep fit group and felt the track was generally well used.

The Town Clerk commented moles had moved and there was no longer evidence of clippings on the track.

There was discussion on the optimum length of the remaining grass and desire for a wild flower meadow in Sprowston. The Town Clerk said the open space at rear of Wilks Farm Drive was left longer in some places to dissuade anti-social behaviour.

This item to be removed from future agendas.

In response to questions from Mr W F Couzens the Town Clerk advised that remnants of a recent fire in the Millennium woodland would be cleared the next day, mown path reinstated, branches impeding walkers removed and he would establish why Willows were no longer cut, chipped and laid as mulch on pathways.

22/090. SUMMER FETE

(a) Publicity

- Flyers emailed to all schools in the area. Some headteachers offered to publicise to parents;

22/090. SUMMER FETE (CONTINUED)

- Banners erected at Sprowston Recreation Ground, Sparhawk Park and Blue Boar Lane roundabout. A further banner to be placed on the vicarage fence. Cllr. Mallen organised the banners with a local firm. Two were donated and two purchased at a discounted price;
- Posters placed on gates to Council's recreational spaces and the bus stops;
- EDP What's On contacted;
- Facebook posts to EDP and Norwich Community Groups.

(b) Stalls

- Local Flavours on target to provide 20 - 30 stalls;
- 3 inflatables of various sizes;
- The Showman's Guild providing two roundabouts, a stall, bumper cars and slushy stand;
- Various stallholders including plant sales, chocolate sellers, local crafts and charities.

(c) Refreshments

No refreshments to be provided by the Town Council

(d) Displays

Perfect Performers School of Dance at 1.30pm and RPM bike display team performing two shows. There is room available for additional shows if anyone is interested. Little response received from people contacted.

(e) Helpers

Cllr. Mallen organised 6 - 7 volunteers. Additional help would be welcome for car park duties at the main car park, Edwards Road car park and Sprowston Diamond Centre.

The Town Clerk explained:

- He had 40 chairs donated by Old Catton village hall for the arena. Having already contacted 3 - 4 different event hire companies he felt it unlikely any additional tables and chairs will be sourced for the music and beer tents;
- Councils' insurers have said, providing third party stallholders are not doing anything considered dangerous and activities are low risk, whilst not insured can participate;
- All musicians suggested had been contacted. Pirate Joe and the Norwich Community Choir would be performing. He had posted on

22/090. SUMMER FETE (CONTINUED)

Facebook advising slots were still available should any local bands be interested.

22/091. BROADLAND DISTRICT COUNCIL BEESTON PARK DEVELOPMENT

Responding to a question from Mr W F Couzens, Mrs J Leggett explained:

This subject was indeed a matter for full Council to consider when sufficient detail was available.

The Recreational Working Group was meeting with officers of Broadland District Council to ensure the Council is not in a position where developers pay CIL receipts in lieu of land.

The open spaces have been designated on a planning application and by keeping apprised of events the Council can arrange to meet with the developer, when identified, to advise them of Council's requirements.

Beeston Park will be the next big development in the area and the open space is split across three parishes. Decisions will need to be made on who will manage these open spaces.

She was trying to get the district council to reinstate the Programme Board, another useful way to keep informed. However, the district council was in the process of setting up a special team to deal with large developments and this might be a more appropriate avenue to pursue.

It was agreed for Mrs J Leggett to arrange a further meeting with officers from Broadland District Council in August. Dependant on details available at this meeting to then report to full Council to establish their requirements.

22/092. TREE GRANT

Mrs J Leggett confirmed there will be a tree grant available from Broadland District Council. It was her understanding the RFWG had still to establish ownership of land between Windsor Park Gardens and North Walsham Road.

As there was space for additional planting at the Diamond Field Ms D Coleman asked if there was a limit on the number of grants that could be made.

Mrs Leggett suggested as money had been allocated from reserves for Environmental initiatives and other town and parishes might not apply the Town Council submit any applications as soon as possible.

She also confirmed that grants were based around the growing season.

Ms D Coleman said she would look at the success rate of species already planted at the Diamond Field and avoid those not coping with drier weather.

22/092. TREE GRANT (CONTINUED)

In view of the weather Mrs J Leggett asked how the grounds team were coping with watering of the recently planted hedge and tiny forest.

The Town Clerk advised watering was taking place once or twice a week and was very time consuming. Whilst the whips would be benefit from additional watering it was all the grounds team could manage within the constraints of their current duties.

He referred to a previous suggestion for volunteers to carry out watering and felt this could be an option given there was a water supply at Sprowston Diamond Centre.

It was agreed for the Town Clerk to discuss the idea of placing a bowser on the Diamond Field for volunteers to access.

22/093. ITEMS FOR NEXT MEETING

Sprowston Summer Fete
Volunteer watering.

22/094. AOB

Mrs J Leggett reported on a paper to be presented to Broadland District Council Cabinet, accessible in the cabinet papers. She referred councillors to page 447 shared posterity fund and working closer with town and parish councils. She wondered if there was an opportunity to obtain funding for expert knowledge on the best way to organise the Viking Centre.

The Town Clerk reported on incidences of arson at Sprowston Recreation Ground. The previous night there had been a failed attempt to set light to the Sprowston Youth Engagement Project (SYEP) caravan however it did suffer physical damage. Several fires on the BMX track, two bins burnt out and a fire in the gents' toilets. The remnants of a recycled plastic bench were also removed from Wilks Farm Drive following a fire in the early hours of the morning

It is very concerning. He had appraised PC Graham Gill, the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Council and Heritage contractors and was trying to pool information to discuss possible solutions.

Clare Lincoln (SYEP) thought the trouble was being caused by visiting groups from the Heartsease estate who did not engage with SYEP or respect the area.

These groups are no longer welcome in the Heartsease estate and are moved on.

Ms D Coleman commented when visiting the SYEP caravan she had been advised by Paul Wheeler that police attending incidences on the park were

22/094. AOB (CONTINUED)

unaware of SYEP and their purpose except for PC Graham.

Mrs J Leggett thought this issue had been resolved with the involvement of the Police Inspector and Sergeant for Sprowston.

Mr W F Couzens referred to the agreement that police response teams would patrol Sprowston Recreation Ground during their down time and suggested they should be aware of SYEP's presence.

Ms D Coleman mentioned that a volunteer from the hedgehog charity would be manning a stall at Sprowston summer fete giving away hedgehog highway signage and leaflets.

22/095. DATE OF NEXT MEETINGS

Pre- Fete (Keep in Touch) Monday 18 July 2022 at 7.00pm