

**RECREATIONAL FACILITIES WORKING GROUP MEETING – 02 FEBRUARY**  
**2024**

At the remote meeting of the Recreational Facilities Working Group held by video conference on Wednesday 2 February 2024, the following Councillors were present:-

Cllr. J Leggett - Chairperson

Cllr. M G Callam     -     Cllr. D Coleman  
Cllr. W F Couzens

In attendance

Mr G Ranaweera     -     Town Clerk and Responsible  
Financial Officer

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**24/001. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs. M A Booth, S D Booth, W F Couzens and J H Mallen.

**24/002. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD 8 NOVEMBER 2023**

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

**24/003. MATTERS ARISING**

(1) Sprowston Football Club

Further to Minute 23/121 (1), the Town Clerk reported he had been in discussion with Gary Howes, representative of Sprowston Football Club, who had advised that Norfolk FA are also in discussion with Broadland District Council regarding the Beeston Park development.

He had reiterated to Mr Howes that Council needed a list of the club's requirements as Councillors would ultimately decide on what they were prepared to adopt on this development.

No further conversation had taken place with regard to GNLP0042 land at rear of Hill Farm House, Wroxham Road.

(2) Fencing on Sprowston Recreation Ground

Further to Minute 23/130, the Town Clerk confirmed he was in the process of procuring a quotation for supply and installation of fencing on the Recreation Ground from the tennis courts to the boundary of properties on Colindeep Lane.

#### **24/004. VIKING CENTRE**

The Town Clerk advised Jason Menezes of Bidwells had informed him that contractors Draper & Nichols Ltd were ordering steelwork and hiring ground workers. Fencing is to be erected on 19 February 2024 and redevelopment works to commence on 4 March 2024.

He would be placing flyers on all vehicles parked on-site the following week.

Reporters from local newspapers had been asking for information and quotes, to which Cllr. W F Couzens had responded on behalf of the Council.

Cllr. Couzens is to also update Just Sprowston.

An article will be included in Sprowston Matters for delivery in March 2024.

Cllr. D Coleman asked for an article explaining why Council cannot spend Community Infrastructure Levy receipts on Doctors surgery's, a police station and road works etc. to be included in the newsletter.

#### **24/005. BROADLAND DISTRICT COUNCIL BEESTON PARK DEVELOPMENT**

A meeting had been arranged with Chris Raine on Tuesday 6 February 2024 to be attended by Cllrs. M A Booth, W F Couzens and J Leggett together with the Town Clerk.

Cllr. J Leggett commented that in 2015 meetings of the Beeston Park Stakeholders board included District Councillors, County Councillors, and representation from the two parish councils. She questioned why Old Catton and Sprowston Councils had not been invited to the meeting that had recently taken place.

Councillors had their own views as to why they had not been invited.

Cllr. J Leggett offered to raise this with Chris Raine.

#### **24/006. SUMMER FETE - 2024**

The Town Clerk reported Foolhardy Circus had been confirmed and deposit paid. Responses were now being received from some entertainers and wandering activities. The next stage is to contact potential stallholders and to ensure availability of sufficient volunteers on the day.

To counterbalance the expense of hiring Foolhardy Circus, arena activities will be limited to more traditional entertainment. He had asked Sprowston FC to organise a children's penalty shootout, and suggested egg and spoon race, sack race and or tug of war. He would also try to find something in the existing budget for a paid experience.

Live music is to commence at 1.30pm, giving an opportunity for an audience to form. Performances will be 1 hour long with a 15-minute change over in

#### **24/006. SUMMER FETE – 2024 (CONTINUED)**

between. Rob Holmes had confirmed his attendance and the Town Clerk was awaiting a response from the Foreign Locals. A third band yet to be sourced.

#### **24/007. WHITE HOUSE FARM UPDATE**

The Town Clerk said he had sent the Recreational Facilities Working groups' (RFGW) comments regarding 2023/1943 (Details of Condition 21 of 2014/0652 (21) Landscape Proposals) Land at Blue Boar Lane to Chris Raine and hoped these would be discussed at the meeting to be held 6 February 2024.

He expressed concern that work had commenced on L6 and L7, location of the MUGA, given the dimensions and fencing height contained in details provided by the developer were incorrect.

Cllr. D Coleman had noticed the location identified for provision of a skatepark had become a major site office and she felt the land would not be available to Council for a very long time.

The Town Clerk suggested it was related to Norfolk Council Council's provision of a cycle, footpath and pedestrian crossing on Blue Boar Lane.

Town Clerk to circulate the RFGW's list of comments regarding Details of Condition 21 to all members of the group prior to the meeting to be held 6 February 2024.

#### **24/008. TREE GRANT AND WWI COMMEMORATIVE TREES**

The Town Clerk advised he had been unable to progress this item in time for autumn/winter planting. It was agreed to make preparations for planting in autumn 2024.

It was noted, that with advice from the Council's head groundsman, residents had planted bulbs on the green at the junction of Cannerby Lane and Allerton Road.

With regard to the planting of trees on Cannerby Lane Green, the Town Clerk had contacted Richard Pearson to clarify the location of crates and suitable trees to plant.

Town Clerk to pursue with Richard Pearson in preparation for the planting of appropriate trees in autumn 2024.

The planting of shrubs was considered however, as they were prone to catching rubbish, which is difficult to litter pick, this idea was disregarded.

Cllr. J Leggett asked what future plans were in place for the Tiny Forest site on Sprowston Recreation Ground.

## **24/008. TREE GRANT AND WWI COMMEMORATIVE TREES (CONTINUED)**

As this is a Norfolk County Council experimental project the Town Clerk would enquire as to their future intentions for the site.

Referring to Harrisons woodland the Town Clerk reported Broadland District Council (BDC) officer, Jamie Henry had intimated that ownership of the woodland will transfer to the Town Council in 2025.

Jamie had also advised there were a number of dead trees, a likely result of the hot summer in 2022. He is to organise the removal of the dead trees and arrange the thinning of remaining trees, in keeping with forestry best practice.

Arboricultural works are extremely expensive and the cost will be covered by the commuted sum transferred to BDC from developers. Timber from the woodland will also be sold to defray these costs.

## **24/009. FORWARD PLAN**

Cllr. J Leggett enquired if decisions on the Viking Centre project would go direct to full Council or via the Recreational Facilities Working group.

The Town Clerk advised it would be for Council to decide on how they would like to proceed.

It was agreed that work to identify tenants for the first-floor accommodation and local charities or social enterprises to run the community café was a priority.

An item to be placed on the next RFWG agenda for discussion followed by referral to full Council.

Areas identified for the RFWG's forward plan:

- Sprowston summer fete
- Trees (WWI Commemorative and Cannerby Lane open space)
- Issues and concerns with the White House Farm development
- Beeston Park open space and sports facilities
- Promoting the re-wilding scheme throughout Sprowston.
- Biodiversity

## **24/010. AOB**

### **Biodiversity**

Town Clerk to send details of the Biodiversity Zoom session organised for 9 February 2024 to Councillors who agreed to attend.

Cllr. D Coleman queried if an environmental assessment had been carried out on Council's sites.

**24/010. AOB (AOB)**

The Town Clerk confirmed he had been contacted by a few people and would follow this up in due course.

**Café**

Provision of a mobile Barista on Sprowston Recreation Ground to remain on the list of things to do.

**Policies**

Cllr. J Leggett commented that the Environmental Statement and Environmental Policy on Council's website were quite old.

The Town Clerk agreed and said a number of Council's policies needed updating.

Cllr. J Leggett suggested this was something Councillors could help with.

**23/011. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

Friday 8 March 2024, 4.00pm