

**REPORT OF THE MEETING OF THE AMENITIES COMMITTEE OF BUNTINGFORD TOWN COUNCIL
HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, MANOR HOUSE, BUNTINGFORD ON 2ND MARCH 2023 AT 7:00
PM.**

Membership: Councillors B. Lemay (Committee Chairman), M. Furness (Deputy Committee Chairman), G. Waite S. Bull, D. Wallace (Town Mayor) and Mrs P. Furness (Deputy Town Mayor).

Present: Councillors B. Lemay, D. Wallace & G. Waite.

Officers in attendance: J. Jones (Town Clerk) & A. Georgiou (Admin Officer)

Also Present: 1 member of the public

- 432. TO RECEIVE AND APPROVE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.**
Apologies from Councillors M. Furness, Mrs P. Furness and S. Bull.
- 433. TO RECEIVE MEMBERS DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.**
No Declarations.
- 434. TO RECEIVE A REPORT AND UPDATE FROM THE CHAIRMAN.**
The Chairman stated that he had nothing to report that would not be covered in the meeting.
- 435. TO APPROVE AS A TRUE RECORD AND AUTHORISE THE CHAIRMAN TO SIGN THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE AMENITIES COMMITTEE HELD ON 2ND FEBRUARY 2023**
Following a proposal, second and a unanimous vote it was
RESOLVED
That the minutes are a true record and the Chairman was authorised to sign them.
- 436. NORFOLK ROAD - TO DISCUSS ISSUES RELATING TO PAVILION, SKATE RAMPS AND ALL OTHER ISSUES RELATING TO NORFOLK ROAD PLAYING FIELD.**
It was reported that the pump track is coming along very well and the contractors are making a very tidy job of the work.
The S106 group have accepted a quote from Clark & Kent to install a path and hard standing area around the new skate bowl whilst they are already on site.
The Clerk is currently investigating purchasing a new bin to be installed in place of the current damaged one next to the skate bowl.
It was reported that there was lots of youth activity in the playing field when the schools were shut.
It was reported that the tree work has now been completed.
It was noted that there are roots of a horse chestnut tree that are lifting the path. Councillor Lemay agreed to speak with Oakleaf to see what can be done.
- 437. SWCC - TO DISCUSS ISSUES RELATING TO THE SETH WARD COMMUNITY CENTRE GROUNDS, PITCHES AND PLAYGROUNDS.**
It was asked when the Council wanted the pitch maintenance to take place this year due to the coronation event in May and the fair coming in June. It was agreed that the maintenance will take place after the coronation but before the fair. This means that the football clubs can use the pitches until 30th April. ATB will be asked to undertake the maintenance on Tuesday 9th May.
It was reported that the cherry tree has been removed, the roots now need to be removed and the path will need to be re-laid.
- 438. HARE STREET ROAD PLAYING FIELD - TO DISCUSS ISSUES RELATING TO FIELD, PLAYGROUND AND WILDLIFE AREA.**
CGS have installed the pond liner and are in the process of filling the pond with water.
It was asked if the Council can now remove the Heras fencing from the hedge line, however there was uncertainty as to whether the developers have put up more barriers or not and it was suggested that the fence should not be removed until some form of barrier is in place.

- 439. LAYSTON COURT GARDENS - TO DISCUSS AND CONSIDER ANY MATTERS RELATING TO LAYSTON COURT GARDENS.**
Council passed their congratulations to the town gardener as the gardens are looking very nice.
The chairman is meeting an associate of Sarah Perry on Monday week and they will be taking down the trees overhanging opposite Pigs Nose, everything that is taken down will be chipped.
- 440. BOVIS AMENITY LAND - TO DISCUSS ISSUES RELATING TO ALL AREAS OF THE AMENITY LAND.**
The improvements to Footpath 27 has been completed by East Herts District Council.
It is unclear if anything has been done regarding the footpath that runs behind Nut Slip.
- 441. LAYSTON CEMETERY - TO DISCUSS ISSUES REGARDING LAYSTON CEMETERY.**
Some trees have been replaced but more are to be done. ATB are also due to put some hedging by the road.
The gate has been fixed and the timings will be changed at the end of the month.
The Clerk reported that the charges need to be revised and the committee will be asked to look at this at the next meeting.
- 442. UPDATE ON PROGRESS OF TREE SURVEYS (QUOTES FOR SURVEY AND QUOTES FOR REQUIRED WORK.**
All outstanding work has been completed.
The Chairman suggested that later in the year the Council should look at the common land at the Causeway and the trees between the cemetery and the old churchyard.
The Chairman suggested that in the future TMA should do the survey and Oakleaf should do the work required.
It was highlighted to Council that a report has recently come out stating Buntingford has one of the lowest percentages of tree canopy cover in Hertfordshire. It was suggested that the Council should have a policy in place stating that if a tree is removed another tree will be planted somewhere in the town. The Clerk agreed to add this to the next agenda.
It was suggested that trees could be planted in the gap in the hedge line at Hare Street Road.
- 443. TO HIGHLIGHT ANY ISSUES OF CONCERN AROUND THE TOWN.**
It was noted that there is currently a consultation for the A507 weight limit ban to be extended. It was suggested that the Council should speak to County Councillor Jones to see if this ban could be extended to Hare Street Road.
- 444. TO RECEIVE A REPORT FROM MEMBERS OF THE RIVER RIB RESTORATION GROUP.**
The berms are due to be planted in late April.
It was reported that a member of the steering group, Dave Edwards, has sadly passed away.
- 445. TO RECEIVE A REPORT FROM THE S106 OUTDOOR SPORTS FACILITIES WORKING PARTY AND RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE WORKING PARTY.**
It was reported that once the pump track has been completed the group will look at other areas of the town.
The group are awaiting a quote for a climbing boulder to be installed at Norfolk Road Playing Field.
The group are looking at an opening day event for the pump track on 1st April.
The group will move forward with the new Council in May.
The track at Hare Street Road is very dependent on access which is currently unclear.
- 446. TO INVITE MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC TO ADDRESS THE MEETING.**
No questions.

Meeting closed 19:36

Next scheduled meeting of the Amenities Committee Thursday 6th April 2023 7.00pm.