

**REPORT OF THE MEETING OF THE AMENITIES COMMITTEE OF BUNTINGFORD TOWN COUNCIL
HELD IN THE BUNTERS SUITE, THE SETH WARD COMMUNITY CENTRE, BUNTINGFORD ON 3RD
JUNE 2021 AT 7.00PM.**

Membership: Councillors D. Wallace (Committee Chairman), B. Lemay (Deputy Committee Chairman) Mrs T. Bonner, S. Bull, M. Furness, G. Waite (Town Mayor) & S. Bowman (Deputy Town Mayor).

Present: Cllrs G. Waite, B. Lemay, D. Wallace, M. Furness and Mrs T. Bonner.

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

Councillor Mrs T. Bonner as the current Chairman oversaw the voting of the new Chairman.

- 26. TO APPOINT A CHAIRMAN OF THE AMENITIES COMMITTEE FOR THE ENSUING COUNCIL YEAR.**
Following a proposal, second, no other nominations and a unanimous vote it was
RESOLVED
That Councillor D. Wallace is elected as Chairman of the Amenities Committee for the ensuing Council year.
- 27. TO APPOINT A DEPUTY CHAIRMAN OF THE AMENITIES COMMITTEE FOR THE ENSUING COUNCIL YEAR.**
Following a proposal, second, no other nominations and a unanimous vote it was
RESOLVED
That Councillor B. Lemay is elected as Deputy Chairman of the Amenities Committee for the ensuing Council year.
- 28. TO RECEIVE APOLOGOIES FOR ABSENCE**
Apologies from Councillor Bowman and Councillor Bull.
- 29. TO RECEIVE MEMBERS DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.**
No Declarations.
- 30. TO RECEIVE A REPORT AND UPDATE FROM THE CHAIRMAN.**
The Chairman stated that he had nothing to report.
- 31. TO APPROVE AS A TRUE RECORD AND AUTHORISE THE CHAIRMAN TO SIGN THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE AMENITIES COMMITTEE HELD ON 6TH MAY 2021**
Following a proposal, second and a unanimous vote.
RESOLVED
That the minutes are a true record and the Chairman was authorised to sign them.
- 32. NORFOLK ROAD - TO DISCUSS ISSUES RELATING TO PAVILION, SKATE RAMPS AND ALL OTHER ISSUES RELATING TO NORFOLK ROAD PLAYING FIELD.**
Councillor Wallace stated that the trees on the footpath from Bowling Green Lane to Greenways on Council owned land still need to be cut back. The Clerk stated that it is on the list to do.
Councillor Waite asked if there had been a discussion with Herts County Council to adopt that footpath. The Clerk explained that many years ago, East Herts District Council asked Buntingford Town Council if they would help improve the path so that the County Council would adopt it. The improvements were made, but the path was never adopted by Herts County Council.
Councillor Waite suggested that it may be an idea to install a graffiti wall somewhere in Norfolk Road Playing Fields, due to the increase in graffiti in the town. It was suggested that this is looked at after the Council have spoken with a consultant with regards to S106 funding for outdoor sports facilities.
- 33. SWCC - TO DISCUSS ISSUES RELATING TO THE SETH WARD COMMUNITY CENTRE GROUNDS, PITCHES AND PLAYGROUNDS.**

It was reported that the football pitches have had their first cut since the maintenance. Councillor Lemay raised concerns that the far touchline on the western side of the field still has some bare patches. The contractors will be asked to look into this issue.

There were further concerns raised regarding the slide / mound in the play area. The ground is still eroding even after the issue was supposedly fixed. It was suggested that this is a problem that needs to be looked at long term, however the Council were mindful with how much money has already been spent on rectifying issues in that particular play area.

34. HARE STREET ROAD PLAYING FIELD - TO DISCUSS ISSUES RELATING TO FIELD, PLAYGROUND AND WILDLIFE AREA.

It was stated that the Council are waiting for Herts and Middlesex Wildlife trust to investigate the wildlife area.

35. LAYSTON COURT GARDENS - TO DISCUSS AND CONSIDER ANY MATTERS RELATING TO LAYSTON COURT GARDENS.

It was stated that the bedding plants are almost done.

It was noted that there had been a lot of litter in the gazebo in recent days.

36. BOVIS AMENITY LAND - TO DISCUSS ISSUES RELATING TO ALL AREAS OF THE AMENITY LAND.

Councillor Lemay went through the quotes received to survey the trees.

Councillor Waite suggested the Council get a quote from a company called Kaarbontech, who were recommend by Capel Manor College.

It was agreed that accepting a quote will be deferred until the next meeting.

37. TO HIGHLIGHT ANY ISSUES OF CONCERN AROUND THE TOWN.

It was reported that a tree has come down on the footpath at the back of Park Farm industrial estate. Councillor Waite agreed to report the tree to Rights of Way.

The increase in graffiti around the town was mentioned. Councillor Wallace stated that he had spoken to the local PCSO, and the police are aware of the issue, but do not know who the perpetrator is. It was suggested that this is not just an issue in Buntingford, but graffiti has increased throughout the whole area.

Councillor Mrs Bonner had reported sewage coming out of a drain on Hare Street Road. Thames Water have since been out to sort out the issue.

It was reported that the nettles on the footpath 29 between The Folly and Monks Walk were becoming very overgrown. It was noted that this should be reported the Rights of Way.

It was reported that a resident at Bridewell Close had complained that she had recently planted flowers on the bank outside her property, and these had been cut by Highways. It was explained to her that the land was owned by The County Council and it would most likely not be possible for her to ask if that area can be maintained privately.

An observation was made on the wild flowers that have appeared on the roundabout at the southern end of the town.

38. REPORT ON CHURCHYARD AND NEW CEMETERY.

It was reported that there have now been 5 internments, all of which have been cremated remains. There are a further 2 internments of cremated remains scheduled to take place.

It was reported that the ground is very hard and it can be quite difficult to create the holes.

It was reported that a turf cutter had been hired to prepare some of the single plot cremated remains.

There are now roughly 34 plots that are ready to be created.

The possibility of getting a contractor to dig the cremated remains plots was discussed, it was suggested that this may be something that needs to be looked at in the future, but as for now the current arrangement is working.

Councillor Lemay reported that a member of the public had told him the war memorial and Layston Gardens are looking very nice.

It was reported that the cemetery has had its first grass cut and is looking good. It was noted that some trees have not taken and need replacing.

39. TO RECEIVE A REPORT FROM MEMBERS OF THE RIVER RIB RESTORATION GROUP.

Still awaiting flood risk assessment. It was reported that the group need to tie in the flood risk assessment with the work that 5 Rivers are doing, as this work is affecting the risk assessment.

The group are still hopeful that the risk assessment will be done by the end of the month.

There is a meeting between the group and Capel Manor representatives tomorrow to look at tree work.

40. TO RECEIVE A REPORT FROM THE S106 OUTDOOR SPORTS FACILITIES WORKING PARTY.

Councillor Wallace reported that the group are in a situation where they felt they will benefit from professional guidance.

The group are awaiting advice and further contacts from the consultant they had a meeting with earlier in the week.

It was reported that the survey that went out came back with some good data.

It was also explained that of the S106 money only some of it is allocated to "Buntingford Town Council" and a large amount is just allocated to "Buntingford". A robust application is needed to apply for the funding, this is one of the reasons that the group are now looking at professional guidance.

It was also noted that there may be issues with access to Hare Street Road Playing Fields. Wheatley Homes have agreed access onto the field, but this will only be available for one year, until houses are built. Councillor Waite stated he is putting together a document to apply for funding, and went through a list of potential projects.

It was suggested that Hare Street Road is the priority due to the access issue.

It was reported that Freman College are ready to apply for funding for a 3G football pitch on the school grounds.

The group are seeking Council agreement to employ a consultant, but have no idea on price at the moment.

It was noted this cost can be claimed back as part of the S106 funding.

There was a brief discussion on the concerns and implications of having a pitch at Freman College and whether it would be available for public use indefinitely.

A question was raised as to what a consultant would actually do.

It was explained that a consultant will bring expertise that the Council does not have, as well as completing all the legal forms and manage the whole project.

Following a proposal, second and a unanimous vote it was

RECOMMENDED

This Council engages the services of a professional consultant to assist in the overall management of the project to improve the outdoor sports facilities in the town. The cost of which will be reclaimed as part of the project.

41. TO INVITE MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC TO ADDRESS THE MEETING.

No public present.

Meeting closed 8.45pm.

Next scheduled meeting of the Amenities Committee Thursday 1st July 2021 7.00pm.