

**REPORT OF THE MEETING OF THE AMENITIES COMMITTEE OF BUNTINGFORD TOWN COUNCIL
HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, MANOR HOUSE, BUNTINGFORD ON 3RD NOVEMBER 2022 AT
7.00PM.**

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

Present: Councillors B. Lemay, M. Furness, D. Wallace, Mrs P. Furness, S. Bull & G. Waite

Officers in attendance J. Jones (Town Clerk)

216. TO RECEIVE AND APPROVE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.

Apologies from Councillor Mrs Bonner.

217. TO RECEIVE MEMBERS DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.

No declarations

218. TO RECEIVE A REPORT AND UPDATE FROM THE CHAIRMAN.

The Chairman offered apologies to Councillor Mrs Bonner who had reported tree root damage to the path at the Community Centre, which the Chairman had not noticed before. It's possible we may have to remove the tree.

219. TO APPROVE AS A TRUE RECORD AND AUTHORISE THE CHAIRMAN TO SIGN THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE AMENITIES COMMITTEE HELD ON 6TH OCTOBER 2022

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.

220. NORFOLK ROAD - TO DISCUSS ISSUES RELATING TO PAVILION, SKATE RAMPS AND ALL OTHER ISSUES RELATING TO NORFOLK ROAD PLAYING FIELD.

It was noted that we still await a decision on the planning application for the pump track. The new bins have been installed. One of the benches near to the ramps will require replacement.

With regard to the report at the previous meeting regarding brambles overhanging the path between the field and Edwinstree School. Councillor M. Furness confirmed that this is not the school's responsibility. The clerk agreed to ask the Gardener if he would attend to it.

221. SWCC - TO DISCUSS ISSUES RELATING TO THE SETH WARD COMMUNITY CENTRE GROUNDS, PITCHES AND PLAYGROUNDS.

The Chairman stated that he would ask the tree surveyor to look at the tree which is responsible for the damage to the path as reported under Chairman's report.

Councillor Mrs Furness reported that the area is very busy when the junior football is taking place which is leading to inconsiderate parking. It was agreed to ask the PCSO to attend when the football is taking place to ascertain the extent of the problem.

222. HARE STREET ROAD PLAYING FIELD - TO DISCUSS ISSUES RELATING TO FIELD, PLAYGROUND AND WILDLIFE AREA INCLUDING UPDATE ON PLAYGROUND REFURBISHMENT.

In response to an email regarding the reinstatement of the playground gates. The Clerk explained that the contractor is still waiting for parts and will undertake the work as soon as the parts are received. Councillor Wallace reported that he along with others, had attended a meeting with the playground contractor. There is concern that as the works are taking place later than expected, there could be damage to the ground. The contractor is to send costings for a trackway to protect the ground. Access to the area was also discussed, there is a dead tree which would have to be moved if we seek access onto the field this could be moved now. Councillor Jones has indicated that he is waiting for a response from the Highways Engineer regarding the possible access. The Chairman stated that the trees are to

be surveyed 8th/9th November and he will ask the surveyors to check the tree to confirm if it's dead. The Chairman agreed to speak with CGS regarding the pond liner.

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

The Chairman reported that the Gardener has advised not to plant roses around the bases of the new trees and that they would be better in a bed of their own. The trees are due to be delivered on the 8th December.

Councillor Wallace reported that there was a tree down over the river which had been reported to the Environment Agency. The Chairman responded that when the works to the river have been completed, the banks will need tidying up.

The Chairman referred to a letter from Buntingford Live, formerly Summer Arts. It has been suggested that the Council should discuss the future use of the gardens now. It was generally agreed that the gardens are not ideal for large music events and it is also unfair on the residents. It was agreed that this warrants a dedicated discussion and Councillors were asked to give it some thought and agenda it for next month.

In response to a question, Councillor Wallace stated that we need to give thought to a possible coronation event and hold at least one meeting before Christmas.

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

Councillor Waite stated that two Willow Tress at the back of Mill Close have been trimmed back but still overhanging gardens. The Chairman responded that they are overhanging the path not a garden.

In response to a question from Councillor Mrs Furness, it was explained that none of the Councils clear leaves from paths.

225. LAYSTON CEMETERY - TO DISCUSS ISSUES REGARDING LAYSTON CEMETERY.

Following a proposal, second and a unanimous vote it was
RESOLVED

That a quote from CGS, in the sum of £319.20 for the planting of 1000 tulip bulbs, 500 allium bulbs and 15 Queen Elizabeth roses in the cemetery, be accepted.

Councillor Waite agreed to chase up ATB regarding the replacement of dead trees in the cemetery.

226. UPDATE ON PROGRESS OF TREE SURVEYS (QUOTES FOR SURVEY AND QUOTES FOR REQUIRED WORK

The Chairman reported that the work to the trees at the rear of the Post Office has been undertaken and the copse on the Causeway will be attended to next week. The surveys on Hare Street Road, Norfolk Road and Community Centre will also be undertaken next week.

It was agreed that surveys to the trees on the common land on The Causeway, which all have TPO's, should be undertaken next year.

227. FIRST CONSIDERATION OF 2023/2024 BUDGET.

The Clerk explained that there are funds for tree work in allocated reserves and it may be possible that on receipt of the tax base we may be able to put more in the tree budget. It was noted that the 2022/2023 staff pay awards had been announced that day which would have an impact on the current year's budget and also next year's.

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

Nothing specific to report.

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

In response to a question from Councillor Wallace, the Chairman agreed to speak with HMWT regarding possible duck houses. The Chairman stated that he had been asked to provide an update on the river works for the December Journal. Work has yet to start and no new date has been made available.

230. TO RECEIVE A REPORT FROM THE S106 OUTDOOR SPORTS FACILITIES WORKING PARTY AND RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE WORKING PARTY.

Councillor Wallace stated that there are no recommendations, a recent meeting had been cancelled due to Councillor Bonner and Alex Georgiou not being present. Still no decision from the Planning Department but we have been told to expect a decision within seven days. We have met with the contractor regarding the Hare Street Road play facilities upgrade, it's hoped they will start on the 14th November. We are waiting on a response from Councillor Jones regarding a vehicular access onto the field which will be needed for future projects.

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

Councillor Waite suggested asking Herts Highways to leave two flowers beds at the top of the town to make the town entrance look nicer. Councillor Wallace responded that we need to be clear on long term maintenance of the proposed beds.

Meeting closed 20.35

Next scheduled meeting of the Amenities Committee Thursday 1st December 2022 7.00pm.