

**REPORT OF THE MEETING OF THE AMENITIES COMMITTEE OF BUNTINGFORD TOWN COUNCIL
HELD REMOTELY VIA ZOOM ON 4TH FEBRUARY 2021 AT 7.00PM.**

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

Present: Cllrs B. Lemay, D. Wallace, S.Bowman, M.Furness, S.Bull and G.Waite.

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

In the absence of the Chairman, the Deputy Chairman took the chair.

241. TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.

Apologies from Councillor Mrs Bonner.

242. TO RECEIVE MEMBER'S DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.

S.Bull - Norfolk Road Playing Field.

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

The Deputy Chairman stated that he had nothing to report.

244. TO APPROVE AS A TRUE RECORD AND AUTHORISE THE CHAIRMAN TO SIGN THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE AMENITIES COMMITTEE HELD ON 7TH JANUARY 2021.

Following a proposal, second and a unanimous vote it was

RESOLVED

That the minutes are a true record and the Deputy Chairman was authorised to sign them.

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

It was noted that it is very muddy, especially near to the play area. Councillor Waite reported that the lighting has been installed at the pavilion, this has been well received.

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

Noted that the playground is closed and the pitches not being used at the moment.

Reference was made to the poor condition of the mound in the playground and that the contractors who installed the playground will not accept responsibility for this. It was unanimously agreed that Alex go back to the contractor stating that we are unhappy with this decision and the way it has been handled.

Alex to liaise with Councillor Wallace regarding the response.

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

Noted that this area is also very muddy, especially at the top end.

248. LAYSTON COURT GARDENS - TO DISCUSS ANY ISSUES RELATING TO LAYSTON COURT GARDENS.

Reference was made to an email from EHDC asking for repairs to be made to the path. Councillor Waite agreed to speak with a contractor regarding these repairs.

249. BOVIS AMENITY LAND - TO DISCUSS ISSUES RELATING TO THE BOVIS AMENITY LAND.

Noted that the land at the unauthorised BMX track had been cleared.

250. 2021 GROUNDS MAINTENANCE TENDERS - TO DISCUSS AND APPOINT GROUNDS MAINTENANCE CONTRACTS FOR THREE YEARS FROM 1.4.21.

Following a proposal, second and a unanimous vote it was

RESOLVED

That the pitch maintenance contract for three years from 1.4.21 be awarded to A T Bone and the grass cutting contract for three years from 1.4.21 be awarded to Glendale.

Following a proposal, second and a unanimous vote it was

RESOLVED

That the community areas maintenance contract for three years from 1.4.21 be awarded to Complete Gardening Services.

Discussion continued on the gardening contract and the Clerk reported that Acer Contractors had agreed to maintain the areas concerned on a temporary basis until a decision has been made on whether to appoint contractors or employ a gardener/handyman. It was noted that although the option of an employee appears to be more costly, there was a significant amount of work that could be undertaken by the employee that is currently undertaken by contractors at additional cost, For example installing litter bins, clearing fallen branches from footpaths etc., there will also be additional work connected to the new cemetery.

Following a proposal, second and a unanimous vote it was

RRESOLVED

That Acer Contractors are asked to cover the work identified in the gardening contract on a temporary basis and further discussion will take place on the best option for future garden maintenance.

251. TO HIGHLIGHT ISSUES OF CONCERN AROUND THE TOWN INCLUDING LITTER AT THE BACK OF SKIPPS MEADOW.

Reference was made to the large volume of litter that had collected at the back of Skipps Meadow on the adjacent footpath. This has now been cleared by a member of the public but the problem could arise again if action is not taken. Councillor Wallace agreed to speak with Sam Wood at EHDC regarding possible action that could be taken.

252. REPORT ON CHURCHYARD AND NEW CEMETERY.

Councillor Waite reported that maintenance of the churchyard is continuing. There are a few things to be undertaken before bird nesting, two entrances between the churchyard and the cemetery have to be created. 15 family cremation plots have been completed. We are now looking into how to mark the plot numbers. We have received a quote for 490 70mm discs which can be pinned into the ground, we are looking at the budget and other options. The noticeboard was delivered yesterday and will be fitted next week.

It was reported that there had been a lot of people in the cemetery last weekend and it was suggested that a keep off the grass notice is posted to try and protect the new planting.

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

Councillor Lemay reported that he had received the draft plan from Five Rivers and there is a Zoom meeting next week to finalise it.

Sarah Perry is now back from sick leave and has offered to present the plan to the Environment Agency also to advise on fund raising. Councillor Waite has written to Mark Wilkinson at FORQ who has agreed to meet via Zoom. Councillor Lemay stated that he was aware that the Town Council cannot raise funds and there is a possibility of a steering group with representatives from HMWT, BTC and Civic Society aimed at raising necessary funds.

Councillor Waite stated that a lot of the identified work can be undertaken by volunteers supervised by the Environment Agency. Dandara has asked to see the plans for the section of the river that runs through their site.

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

Councillor Bowman stated that there is little to report. We are still waiting to hear if the Freman 3G pitch project will be self funded. At the last meeting it was decided to work from the bottom up, installing two outdoor gyms at approximately £15k each. Also looking at a path/track at Hare Street Road Playing Field. Councillor Waite has arranged to meet with a contractor to discuss a pump track. All of these things will leave sufficient funds to support major projects. The tennis courts at Freman College could have a new tarmac surface which would provide a serviceable community facility.

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

No public present. The Deputy Chairman thanked Members for a productive meeting.

Meeting closed 8.26pm.

Next scheduled meeting of the Amenities Committee Thursday 4th March 2021 via Zoom. 7pm.