

**REPORT OF THE MEETING OF THE AMENITIES COMMITTEE OF BUNTINGFORD TOWN COUNCIL
HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, MANOR HOUSE, BUNTINGFORD ON 5TH JANUARY 2023 AT
8:10 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 M. Furness, S. Bull, Mrs P. Furness, D. Wallace & G. Waite.

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

Also Present: Cllr S. Bowman & 1 member of the public.

In the absence of the Chairman the Deputy-Chairman took the Chair.

- 316. TO RECEIVE AND APPROVE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.**
Apologies from Councillor B. Lemay approved.
- 317. TO RECEIVE MEMBERS DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.**
No declarations.
- 318. TO RECEIVE A REPORT AND UPDATE FROM THE CHAIRMAN.**
The Deputy Chairman stated that Councillor Lemay had left him some updates, but they would be covered under other agenda items.
- 319. TO APPROVE AS A TRUE RECORD AND AUTHORISE THE CHAIRMAN TO SIGN THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE AMENITIES COMMITTEE HELD ON 1ST DECEMBER 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.
- 320. 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 waste bins had been extremely full, with what looked like household waste, over the Christmas period. It was reported that the dog bins have now been emptied.
It was reported that there had been a problem with the CCTV system at the Cricket Pavilion, a new sim card has been installed and the cameras are now working.
A meeting with Clark & Kent is scheduled for Monday to discuss the pump track, they will also be asked to quote for a path to join the current footpath with the skate ramps. They will also be asked to install the sign for the skate ramps.
It was asked if the Pavilion toilets could be open to the public. There were concerns as it was suggested that this could lead to Anti-social behaviour and would require multiple cleans throughout the day and someone to lock and unlock every day.
- 321. SWCC - TO DISCUSS ISSUES RELATING TO THE SETH WARD COMMUNITY CENTRE GROUNDS, PITCHES AND PLAYGROUNDS INCLUDING REQUEST FROM PARK RUN TO HOLD JUNIOR SESSIONS ON A SUNDAY MORNING.**
Councillor Wallace and District Councillor Jones met with Park Run to discuss locations. In the meeting Park Run had suggested that they preferred Norfolk Road Plating Field, however when the email came through, they had asked for the Seth Ward Community Centre. Councillor Wallace stated that he would speak with Councillor Jones and Park Run to clarify this.
It was suggested that the Council had no problem in principle with either location being used. It would not affect the football as it would be finished by 10:00 and it would not damage the ground as it is only young children running 2km.
It was suggested that the Council should encourage this sort of activity in the town.
Following a proposal, second and a unanimous vote it was
RESOLVED

That this Council supports the Junior Park Run at either Seth Ward Playing Fields or Norfolk Road Playing Fields.

The Deputy Chairman received a report from Councillor Lemay stating that he is meeting with a contractor to discuss the Cherry Tree which is causing damage to the path. It was noted that it looks like the tree will have to be removed to prevent further damage to the path.

It was also reported that the drainage needs to be looked at on the top football pitch. It was suggested that ATB are asked to look at the drainage at the same time as the end of season maintenance.

- 322. HARE STREET ROAD PLAYING FIELD - TO DISCUSS ISSUES RELATING TO FIELD, PLAYGROUND AND WILDLIFE AREA INCLUDING UPDATE ON PLAYGROUND REFURBISHMENT.**
There is a meeting with Proludic on 17th January to look at the groundwork. It was noted that this could not be looked at previously because of the snow. A platform is to be installed on the zip-wire to enable younger children to use the equipment. Councillor Wallace reported that he had received many positive comments about the new equipment.
It was reported that the playground gates are expected to be installed by the end of the month, there had been a long wait for the parts needed.
It was reported that the Heras fencing has been installed to close the gap in the tree line.
- 323. LAYSTON COURT GARDENS - TO DISCUSS AND CONSIDER ANY MATTERS RELATING TO LAYSTON COURT GARDENS.**
After the last meeting the Clerk sent an email to Buntingford Live to remind them that any future use of the gardens will need permission again.
It was reported that the two new trees, one for Queen Elizabeth II Platinum Jubilee and a commemorative tree for Queen Elizabeth II were planted on 8th Dec. Commemorative roses have also been purchased to be planted around the trees.
A quote has been received to install the new dual-use bench and the bench can now be ordered.
- 324. BOVIS AMENITY LAND - TO DISCUSS ISSUES RELATING TO ALL AREAS OF THE AMENITY LAND.**
Footpath 28 looks to have been reported by a member of the public.
- 325. LAYSTON CEMETERY - TO DISCUSS ISSUES REGARDING LAYSTON CEMETERY.**
There is no update on planting new trees to replace dead ones. ATB will be chased up.
There was concern with some of the items on certain plots in the cemetery. It was suggested that it is acceptable to have some form of discretion for new plots, but as time goes on it will need to be managed. It was noted that all owners have received terms and conditions regarding items on plots.
It was reported that the gates on the old Churchyard are in a bad state. It was noted that this is the responsibility of the church. Councillor Bull agreed to raise the issue with Rev'd Kirsty Wainwright.
It was suggested that more chipping / gravel is needed in the car park.
It was noted that bulbs have recently been planted.
- 326. UPDATE ON PROGRESS OF TREE SURVEYS (QUOTES FOR SURVEY AND QUOTES FOR REQUIRED WORK)**
The tree work for Norfolk Road Playing Field has been approved, this includes work to the trees surrounding the proposed pump track.
It was reported that there was an issue with the wording on the survey for the two Cherry trees on the land at Monks Walk. Councillor Lemay has agreed to investigate this before any quotes are approved.
The tree work for Hare Street Road has been approved and the office are awaiting a start date.
Tree work at Seth Ward Community Centre has also been approved.
The trees on the Causeway will have to wait until the next financial year as there is not sufficient funding in the budget for this year.

327. FINAL CONSIDERATION OF 2023/2024 BUDGET.

No changes.

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

The Clerk had received an email from a resident regarding multiple issues in the High Street. Highways have responded and they have referred parking issues to East Herts District Council. The email asked if bollards could be placed in the High Street to stop parking in certain areas. Highways have stated that they have no more bollards to install.

It was suggested that this whole area may be looked at if phase 2 of the London Road Active Travel Fund project comes into fruition.

It was asked if planters can be used instead of bollards. It was suggested that this would need Highways permission and should be referred to the Resources Committee.

It was reported that a tree was taken down at Hare Street Road because it was unsafe. Wheatley Homes emailed the Clerk's office to state that it was their tree. This was assessed and the trees belong to Buntingford Town Council, however Wheatley also believe they own a strip of land between the tree line and the road, this is not yet confirmed.

It was asked at a previous meeting if there was any possibility to install bins / dog bins north of Vicarage Road. It was noted that the land West of Ermine Street belongs to Redrow and the land on the East of Ermine Street is in Wyddial parish. This makes it very difficult to install bins. Possible locations were discussed.

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

The initial work has now been completed. The berms have not moved despite heavy rain. It was reported that there are now more kingfishers and egrets at the river.

It was stated that the work has been very good. It was also noted that there are 35 volunteers ready to plant the berms in the spring.

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

It was stated that now the pump track has been finalised other aspirations can be looked at.

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

It was asked if there was any update on the Doctors surgery.

It was confirmed that the doctors had decided that they did not want the area of land where the pump track is being built.

Members of the Town Council had walked the town with the representatives from the doctors to look at other locations. Nevetts was the preferred location. The Town Council encouraged talks between Herts County Council and the Doctors. The Town Council has contacted the Doctors to ask for an update but have not received a reply. The Clerk agreed to email the doctors to ask if they received the initial letter.

Meeting closed 21:08.

Next scheduled meeting of the Amenities Committee Thursday 2nd February 2023 7.00pm.