

**REPORT OF THE MEETING OF THE AMENITIES COMMITTEE OF BUNTINGFORD TOWN COUNCIL
HELD REMOTELY VIA ZOOM ON 5TH NOVEMBER
2020 AT 7.00PM.**

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

Present: Cllrs B. Lemay, D. Wallace, Mrs T. Bonner, S. Bowman and G. Waite.

Also Present: 1 member of the public.

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

116. TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.

Apologies from Councillors S. Basra and S. Bull.

117. TO RECEIVE MEMBER'S DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.

No declarations.

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

The Chairman stated that she had nothing to report.

119. TO APPROVE AS A TRUE RECORD AND AUTHORISE THE CHAIRMAN TO SIGN THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE AMENITIES COMMITTEE HELD ON 1ST OCTOBER 2020.

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.

120. NORFOLK ROAD - TO DISCUSS ISSUES RELATING TO PAVILION, SKATE RAMPS AND ALL OTHER ISSUES RELATING TO NORFOLK ROAD PLAYING FIELD INCLUDING FURTHER CONSIDERATION OF REPLACING FOOTBALL WALL REMOVED DUE TO UNREPAIRABLE DAMAGE.

Councillor Wallace stated that he had supported a new football wall at the last meeting, since then a paper had been circulated regarding a proposed pump track on the same site as the proposed football wall. It was noted that this was only a suggestion at this stage for the S106 Working Party to consider. The Chairman suggested putting the issue of the football wall on hold until the Working Party had made recommendations.

121. SWCC - TO DISCUSS ISSUES RELATING TO THE SETH WARD COMMUNITY CENTRE GROUNDS, PITCHES AND PLAYGROUNDS INCLUDING REVIEW OF THE PARKING OF VEHICLES BELONGING TO PLAYERS AND SPECTATORS ON LUYNES RISE.

Councillor Wallace reported that he had visited the site on three of the four Sundays since the last meeting. COVID compliance had improved, there were vehicles parked on the pitch side of Luynes Rise but the junctions were clear and no offences committed.

It was noted that at the previous meeting it had been agreed that the rule for pitch use would be each pitch played one game per weekend. Since then further guidance had been sought and it had been suggested that Derek Brand (Wanderers) would be responsible for deciding whether or not the pitches could be played more than once at a weekend.

Following a proposal, second and a unanimous vote it was

RESOLVED

That Derek Brand be permitted to arbitrate on pitch use until the end of this season. This to be reviewed at the end of the season.

The Clerk was asked to speak with the groundsman with regard to aerating the field from the touch line to the back fences of Campbell Close as this seems to flood more than the rest of the field.

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

Councillor Bowman stated that the anti-social behaviour referred to at the last meeting had reduced due to the dark evenings and bad weather.

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

The Clerk stated that she is still waiting for quotations for clearing the compost area. The groundsman has started the autumn planting.

124. BOVIS AMENITY LAND - CONSIDERATION OF WORK TO TREES ADJACENT TO MILL CLOSE AND FURTHER DISCUSSION ON THE UNAUTHORISED CREATION OF A BMX TRACK ON LAND ADJACENT TO THE RIVER AT LYNES RISE.

The Clerk reported that she has not yet received a quote to attend to the trees at the rear of Mill Close, she would chase this up.

The Clerk also agreed to chase up the quote for clearing the land where the unauthorised BMX track has been created.

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

The Clerk was asked to chase up the report of the damaged bin outside the Chinese Take Away in the High Street.

Councillor Wallace reported graffiti on the walls of buildings at Park Farm along the footpath, also the skate ramps.

In response to a question, the Clerk ascertained from the County Councillor that there was no initial plans for lighting along the footpath at the back of the allotments but Rights of Way were considering lit bollards.

126. REPORT ON CHURCHYARD AND NEW CEMETERY.

Councillor Waite reported that planting at the Cemetery should commence this coming week. There had been a problem with the electric gates, but this has now been fixed. The grass seed on the verges has now germinated, the cemetery maintenance contract should include maintaining the verges.

The old churchyard maintenance has now ceased for the winter months.

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

Councillor Lemay reported that the contract with 5 Rivers had been signed. The Chairman of FORQ has arranged a meeting with the CEO of Affinity Water to discuss funding.

128. SECOND CONSIDERATION OF 2021/2022 BUDGET.

No changes at the moment, the decision regarding future garden maintenance could affect the budget.

129. TO AGREE DATE FOR MEETING OF S106 OUTDOOR SPORTS FACILITIES WORKING PARTY.

Meeting agreed for Thursday 19th November 7pm via Zoom.

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

The member of the public asked about the vandalised bench at the top of Church Street. The clerk responded that the bench has now been cleaned and will be re-painted as soon as weather conditions permit.

131. INITIAL DISCUSSION ON FUTURE ARRANGEMENTS FOR GARDEN MAINTENANCE.

The Clerk had sent round a report outlining the options for future garden maintenance. This could either be the employment of a Gardener/handyman or Town Ranger or contract out the garden maintenance. It was noted that if the right person could be found it would be ideal as it would give the Council more control.

The Clerk asked Members to give this matter some thought before the next meeting. The Clerk agreed to endeavour to provide an estimate of how much is spent on grounds maintenance over and above the contracted amount, things that could be undertaken in house if the Council employed a gardener.

Meeting closed 8.20pm.

Next scheduled meeting of the Amenities Committee Thursday 3rd December 2020 via Zoom. 7pm.