

**REPORT OF THE MEETING OF THE AMENITIES COMMITTEE OF BUNTINGFORD TOWN COUNCIL
HELD IN THE BUNTERS SUITE, THE SETH WARD COMMUNITY CENTRE, BUNTINGFORD ON 6TH
MAY 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 G. Waite, B. Lemay, D. Wallace, S. Bowman, M. Furness, Mrs T. Bonner and S. Bull.

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

Also present Councillor J. Ling

367. TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.

No apologies.

368. TO RECEIVE MEMBERS DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.

S. Bull - Norfolk Road Playing Fields

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

The Chairman stated that she had nothing to report.

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

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

It was mentioned that the bushes/trees at the top of the footpath running from Bowling Green Lane to Greenways need to be cut back. It was stated that the bushes are on the playing field side of the path and the responsibility of Buntingford Town Council.

It was also brought to the Council's attention that children had been seen playing on the cricket pitch covers which could lead to them being damaged.

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

It was reported that the pitch maintenance has begun.

A quote of £2148.60 had been received from Kompan to repair the damaged surface around the edge of the trampoline. The Council generally agreed that the quote was excessive but necessary on such a well-used piece of equipment. It was agreed that there may be a problem with vandalism in the park and it was suggested cameras be put up in the park to deter any future vandalism.

Following a proposal, second and a unanimous vote it was

RESOLVED

That the Council accept the quote £2148.60 from Kompan to repair the trampoline.

Following a proposal, second and a unanimous vote it was

RESOLVED

That the Council install a camera and necessary signs in the play area at the Seth Ward Community Centre.

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

It was suggested that the wildlife area needs some sort of maintenance. Councillor Waite will ask Herts and Middlesex Wildlife Trust to advise us on suitable maintenance.

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

There were some comments on how lovely the flowers look in the garden.

The Town Clerk agreed to try and get the spring flowers in the week commencing 24th May.

It was suggested that the Council look at the possibility of planting a sensory garden, possibly in memory of former Councillor Surjit Basra.

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

It was reported that some of the willows in the area are beginning to be covered in ivy.

Following a proposal, second and a unanimous vote it was

RESOLVED

That the quote in the sum of £290 be accepted to attend to the Willow tree at the rear of Downhall Ley be accepted.

The Council had received 2 quotes for a tree survey in the area however it was agreed that further quotes should be looked at.

It was also suggested that the area needs a management plan and should be looked at every 5 years.

The Town Clerk agreed to try and find the company that surveyed the trees at Monks Walk, and ask them to quote for a tree survey at the Bovis Amenity Land.

376. FUTURE ARRANGEMENTS FOR GARDEN MAINTENANCE - CONSIDERATION OF EQUIPMENT REQUIRED.

The Town Clerks explained that this discussion was just for the purchase of a vehicle which was previously discussed at Full Council. It was explained that the Council have a lot of funds in New Homes Bonus which needs to be spent, and that is why the item originally went to Full Council.

Councillor Waite has organised for a demonstration of a vehicle on Tuesday 18th May at 10:30. The vehicle is expected to cost £16,000 including all logo printing. The point of the demonstration is to determine if this vehicle is suitable. Councillor Bull suggested that if the vehicle proves suitable and sufficient then it should be purchased.

It was suggested that the Amenities committee recommend to Full Council that subject to a satisfactory trial the Council agree in principle to pay for a vehicle to be funded from New Homes Bonus.

Councillor Ling suggested that the issue go to the Resources Committee to further discuss funding.

Following a proposal, second and a unanimous vote it was

RECOMMENDED

That the Amenities Committee recommends to Council that a vehicle is purchased to assist with grounds maintenance, subject to a satisfactory trial, to be funded from New Homes Bonus.

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

It was suggested that the cage needs a tidy up, however the Clerk was unsure who was responsible for the land. It was stated that the Civic Society have been looking after it, but ownership is unclear.

378. REPORT ON CHURCHYARD AND NEW CEMETERY.

The Churchyard maintenance is still ongoing.

It was reported that 3 plots have already been sold in the new cemetery, and the Clerk has another appointment with someone who wants to buy 2 plots.

The opening ceremony took place last week on Friday 30th April.

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

The group are waiting for a couple of reports to come back, including a flood risk assessment.

Once these reports are received the plans will go straight to the environmental agency for approval.

The group want to begin work of the second section of the river (the ford to the Jolly Sailors pub), as this will be the cheapest area, but is also the best area to provide an example of what future work can be done and what the town can expect to see from the project.

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

It was reported that Freman College have had approval for a 3G pitch. The project will be 60% funded by the FA, and Freman may look elsewhere for further funds.

It was also reported that the group have decided to get expert help from consultants as it has proved to be a much more complex project than initially anticipated.

It was mentioned that Herts County Council may be looking to acquire some of the S106 money to improve the pitches at The Bury.

Councillor Waite stated that he had received roughly 400 responses to his survey.

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

None present.

Meeting closed 8.40pm.

Next scheduled meeting of the Amenities Committee Thursday 3rd June 2021 7.00pm.