

**REPORT OF THE MEETING OF THE AMENITIES COMMITTEE OF BUNTINGFORD TOWN COUNCIL
HELD REMOTELY VIA ZOOM ON 7TH JANUARY 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, Mrs T.Bonner, S.Bowman, M.Furness, S.Bull and G.Waite.

Also Present: Cllrs J.Ling and Mrs P.Furness.

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

194. TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.

No apologies.

195. TO RECEIVE MEMBER'S DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.

S.Bull - Norfolk Road Playing Field.

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

The Chairman stated that she had nothing to report.

197. TO APPROVE AS A TRUE RECORD AND AUTHORISE THE CHAIRMAN TO SIGN THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE AMENITIES COMMITTEE HELD ON 3RD DECEMBER 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.

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

The Clerk reported that the new lighting has been installed at the pavilion. In answer to a question from Councillor Bull the Clerk reported that the lights on the footpath between Bowling Green Lane and Greenways was a complicated issue of ownership but she was hopeful that the situation will be resolved soon.

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

Councillor Lemay reported that the top pitch is water logged, possibly the drains are blocked. Councillor Waite agreed to speak with a contractor regarding this.

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

Nothing to report.

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

It was noted that one of the by-law signs had been vandalised and needed replacing.

In answer to a question, the Clerk reported that, in line with Government legislation, the town's playgrounds are open but the outdoor gym is closed.

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

The Clerk reported that the land at the unauthorised BMX track had been cleared. The trees adjacent to Mill Close will be attended to on the 28th January and the hedge adjacent to Campbell Close has been cut.

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

The Clerk agreed to contact the PCC regarding the pedestrian gates at the churchyard which are becoming a safety issue.

It was noted that there had been issues with overfilled dog bins over the holiday period. This had been caused by a temporary person missing some bins before Christmas and then delays due to the holiday period. It's hoped that things are back on track now.

The Clerk stated that she had contacted North Herts regarding a site meeting at the Bowling Green lane toilets, she had not heard back and will chase this up.

204. REPORT ON CHURCHYARD AND NEW CEMETERY.

Councillor Waite reported that the planting is now complete and thanked those who assisted in planting the 1500 bulbs. Councillor Bull thanked Councillor Waite for leading the bulb planting.

The Haras fencing has been removed and the pedestrian gate is open. The contractors have started creating the cremated remains plots. We are looking for a suitable noticeboard and a litter bin is on order.

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

Councillor Lemay reported that he had walked the river with the surveyors, there is a meeting arranged for the 18th January with the surveyors after which an interim report should be put together and then we can talk to the Environment Agency.

Councillor Lemay further reported that he had taken a call from Mark Wilkinson from FORQ who stated that FORQ are no longer prepared to help with obtaining grants and funding in their name as they are a pressure group and concerned with the whole river, not just the Buntingford stretch. There is a meeting this evening where they will discuss this further. Perhaps we should consider a letter to the Executive expressing our disappointment.

Councillor Waite stated that we still have the wherewithal to carry this project through, we don't want to lose the impetus.

Councillor Ling stated that the Rib goes through Chipping, north of the bridges is very dry, can only assume that there is so much extraction through the Chipping bore hole.

206. CONSIDERATION OF 2021/2022 BUDGET.

The Clerk explained that the tax base has now been received which led to setting aside £11,000 in contingency towards any shortfalls as a result of the tender process.

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

Councillor Bowman reported that a top priority is a 3G pitch, hopefully in conjunction with Freman College. The group is also talking to Freman College about improved tennis facilities for public use. Depending on what happens with the 3G pitch it's possible the existing MUGA could be for general use. The group is also looking at a running track around Hare Street Road Playing Field and a pump track. Smaller projects are ongoing.

208. FURTHER DISCUSSION ON FUTURE ARRANGEMENTS FOR GARDEN MAINTENANCE.

The Clerk reported that the tender deadline is the 22nd January, we should be in a position to look at things in more depth at the next meeting.

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

Councillor Ling reported that the footpath from Layston Church to Wyddial Road is impassable near to Wyddial Road, this could be due to construction work. Councillor Waite agreed to look into this.

There is no information on the sign post up to Layston Church.

Meeting closed 19.55.

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