

HOUGHTON REGIS TOWN COUNCIL
Environment & Leisure Committee
Tuesday 17th September at 7.00pm

Present: Councillors: T McMahon Chairman
J Carroll Substitute
D Dixon-Wilkinson
Y Farrell
S Goodchild
R Morgan
A Slough

Officers: Clare Evans Town Clerk
Tony Luff Head of Grounds Operations
Louise Senior Head of Democratic Services

Public: 1

Apologies: Councillors: D Abbott

10046 APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Cllr Abbott, (Cllr Carroll substituted).

10047 QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

A member of the public asked if Tithe Farm Pavilion was being looked at for new football pitches, as he had concerns over light pollution, parking and sound disturbances. He suggested that HRN2 should be considered a better option to address these concerns and it would help keep traffic away from the town centre.

It was advised that this item had not been presented to council previously, however, preliminary talks had been underway between Houghton Regis Town Council, Central Bedfordshire Council, Beds Football Association and the Football Foundation regarding this project.

10048 SPECIFIC DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

10049 MINUTES

To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 3rd June and 22nd July 2019.

Resolved: To confirm the minutes of the Environment & Leisure Committee meeting held on 3rd June and 22nd July 2019 and for these to be signed by the Chairman.

10050 BUDGET REVIEW

Members received the income and expenditure report for Environment & Leisure Committee to date.

Members requested clarification on procedures of the budget; who oversees and would advise on any predicted overspends.

Members were advised that issues/concerns would be raised within the accompanying report.

Resolved: To note the report.

10051 VISION UPDATE

Members received a review of the initiatives under this committee.

Members were advised that the cemetery renovation work was underway.

Members agreed that the accomplishments of the Vision had positively impacted the town.

Resolved: To note the report.

10052 TITHE FARM PAVILION AND RECREATION GROUND

Ms L White, Policy Manager, Leisure, Libraries and Countryside, Central Bedfordshire Council was in attendance to discuss a potential partnership project with members.

Members were advised Houghton Regis needed two all weather football pitches to meet the needs of the current town. The pavilion at Tithe Farm Recreation ground had been visited by members and it was agreed that it was potentially a good site and worthy of further exploration. Further investigation of this site would be required for feasibility.

Members were advised that the work would require match funding, it was suggested that s106 money could be used to subsidise the match funding cost.

Members agreed that this project would benefit current residents and would improve facilities in the Tithe Farm area of the town.

Resolved: To support the proposed partnership project to deliver refurbished / replacement pavilion and an all-weather pitch at Tithe Farm Recreation Ground.

10053 VILLAGE GREEN PAVILION ALTERATIONS

Members were advised of feedback received on the Village Green Pavilion and to discuss the suitability of having a feasibility study completed.

Members thanked the Head of Grounds Operations for the tour of buildings offered to councillors and advised that it had been a valuable visit.

Members discussed the availability of additional space within the building by the redesign of internal areas and relocating storage space to Tithe Farm Pavilion. Members were advised that it was hoped that both this and the Tithe Farm Pavilion project could run concurrently. Members agreed that the two projects would provide huge benefits to the community.

- Resolved:**
- 1. To progress the development of alterations to the Village Green once there is more certainty around the Tithe Farm recreation ground project;**
 - 2. To improve ancillary facilities in the kitchen in the short term, including improved cooking facilities, urn, extractor system, external water source.**

10054 PLAY AREA INSPECTION REPORT

Members were advised of the outcome of the annual independent play area inspection report.

Members were advised that signage had not been provided by Central Bedfordshire Council, Houghton Regis Town Council had supplied the necessary signs which had been put in place along the public highway.

Members advised of their disappointment that Central Bedfordshire Council had not supplied the relevant signs for the highway.

Resolved: To accept the low level risks as identified.

The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 8.02pm

Dated this 18th day of November 2019

Chairman