

HOUGHTON REGIS TOWN COUNCIL
Environment & Leisure Committee
21st September 2020 at 7.00pm

Present: Councillors: T McMahon Chairman
D Abbott
Y Farrell
S Goodchild
R Morgan

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

Public: 2

Apologies: Councillors: A Slough

Absent: D Dixon-
Wilkinson

11340 APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Cllr Slough.

11341 QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

None.

11342 SPECIFIC DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

11343 MINUTES

To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 1st June 2020.

Resolved: To confirm the minutes of the Environment & Leisure Committee meeting held on 1st June 2020 and for these to be signed by the Chairman.

11344 INCOME AND EXPENDITURE REPORT

Members received the Income & Expenditure report to date for the Environment & Leisure Committee.

11345 HOUGHTON REGIS CEMTERY

Members were advised that at the time of preparing this agenda the last remaining burial plot had been booked for an interment. Funeral directors had been advised accordingly.

As members were aware a considerable amount of work had been undertaken to secure a new burial site. Discussions were being held with Central Bedfordshire Council on options and in due course a report would be presented to the New Cemetery Sub-Committee.

Members were advised that once land had been identified and costings for exploratory work had been received from Cemetery Development Services, a New Cemetery Sub-Committee meeting would be held. Members were advised that it was hoped that a meeting of the New Cemetery Sub-Committee could be held approximately within the next 6 weeks.

11346 PLAY AREA INSPECTION REPORT

Members were provided with an update of the outcomes of the annual play area inspection and were invited to consider surfacing options for the Village Green play area.

Members were advised of the ongoing cost of bark replacement each year at approximately £2,500 and were requested to consider replacing this with wetpore, which would not incur an annual replenishment cost, ad-hoc repairs would be completed as necessary.

Resolved:

- 1. To complete all maintenance in the timescale indicated within Appendix A and accept low risk items as identified;**
- 2. To replace the bark surface within the Village Green play area with wetpore using the services of Company A.**

11347 TITHE FARM RECREATION GROUND SPORTS PROJECT UPDATE

To update members on the Tithe Farm Recreation Ground Sports Project.

Members were advised that a bid consultant and design architect had been appointed. Some issues had been raised; the land was not registered with Land Registry, however, the lease would be registered which met the requirements of the Football Foundation; a foul sewage pipe had been discovered on the land. Discussions were being held with Anglian Water over this.

Members were advised that a resident consultation would be held when the process was further along.

7.26 pm - Councillor Morgan joined the meeting

11348 VISION

Members received an extract from the approved Vision 2020/2024 as it related to the work of this committee. Members were requested to note that Covid-19 had a

significant impact on the progression of the Vision.

In particular Members were invited to discuss:

1.5 – edible planting

1.6 – supporting biodiversity and wildlife

1.6 – recycling within open spaces

2.4 – outdoor fitness equipment in parks and open spaces

4.5 – provision of high quality green spaces

4.6 – range of play facilities

There may be significant budget implications for members aspirations under 4.5 and 4.6. As such members were invited to put forward any specific ideas so that investigations could take place and funding options considered.

Members queried whether the bins identified would be dual purpose, and if the extra cost of disposal been considered. Members were advised the correct disposal of recyclable litter was difficult but options would be investigated further.

Members suggested, that as only some of the bins in Houghton Regis were maintained and replaced by Houghton Regis Town Council, that Central Bedfordshire Council be approached to replace the Central Bedfordshire Council owned bins at the same time.

Members raised concerns that the due to Covid-19, sharing the Vision with residents may prove more of a challenge.

Members were keen for the edible planting project to be initiated. An area suggested for the edible planting project was Dog Kennel Down, although this was a County Wildlife site so options would need to be explored further.

An amendment to the officer recommendation 1. was proposed to read:

To approve a phased replacement of litter bins with dual purpose litter and recycling bins, subject to a suitable means of disposal being identified.

The officer recommendation read:

To approve a phased replacement of litter bins with dual purpose litter and recycling bins.

The amendment was proposed by: S Goodchild, seconded by: D Abbott.
All in favour

Accordingly, this became the substantive motion.

Proposed by: S Goodchild, seconded by: D Abbott.
All in favour

- Resolved:**
- 1. To approve a phased replacement of litter bins with dual purpose litter and recycling bins, subject to a suitable means of disposal being identified.**
 - 2. To approve investigations into dedicating Parkside recreation ground as a Field in Trust and subsequently to seek Field in Trust funding to support the installation of outdoor fitness equipment on this site.**

11349 USE OF THE VILLAGE GREEN

Members were advised that John Lawson Circus requested the following dates for 2021:

Pull On 14th October 2021 - Pull Off 22nd October 2021 with show dates 15th to 21st October 2021

- Resolved:** **To approve the visit by John Lawson Circus for 14th October to 22nd October 2021.**

11350 MOORE CRESCENT CAR PARK

Members were invited to consider the use of Moore Crescent car park to support Houghton Hall Park.

Members were advised that the car park was currently being used by Houghton Hall Park to support their events but could be used to support Houghton Hall Park on a more regular or daily basis. Members were advised that this was a request to authorise the investigation of the wider use of the car park, and options would be brought back to this Committee for further discussion once the investigation had been completed.

- Resolved:** **To agree in principal to the further consideration for the wider use of Moore Crescent car park to support the use of Houghton Hall Park.**

The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 8.04pm

Dated this 16th day of November 2020

Chairman