

DUNSTABLE TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE GROUNDS AND ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES COMMITTEE

ON MONDAY 13 MARCH 2023 FROM 19:00

Present: Councillors Liz Jones (Town Mayor), Lisa Bird (Deputy Town Mayor and Chairman), Matthew Brennan, Alan Corkill, Greg George (Vice-Chairman), Sid Abbott, Kenson Gurney, Pamela Ghent, Gladys Sanders and Johnson Tamara.

In Attendance: Paul Hodson (Town Clerk and Chief Executive), John Crawley (Head of Grounds and Environmental Services), Mary Dobbs (Cemetery Manager), Dimitrisz Sopisz (Grounds Operations Manager), James Slack (Sports and Leisure Facilities Manager) and Kathy Doyle (Parks and Green Space Development Officer)

Apologies: Councillors Mark Cant and Cameron Restall.

Public: Nil.

69/23 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting of Grounds and Environmental Services Committee held on 16 January 2023 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

70/23 SPECIFIC DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no specific declarations of interest.

71/23 PLANS-SUB COMMITTEE

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the meetings of the Plans Sub-Committee held on 24 January and 14 February be received.

19:07: Councillor Sanders entered the Chamber.

72/23 CREASEY PARK COMMUNITY FOOTBALL CENTRE AND SPLASH PARK

The Sports and Leisure Facilities Manager summarised the report. It was noted that following poor weather since the report was issued the forecast income had reduced by several thousand pounds due to games and training sessions being cancelled. A small surplus is still forecast. Members noted that both teams had increased the number of spectators attending games.

The Sports and Leisure Facilities Manager summarised work that is ongoing to seek additional uses and income from the café and recreation ground. Officers have been working with the Community Engagement Team and CBC's Cultural Engagement Officer to identify additional uses for Bennet's Memorial Recreation Ground. Coffee

mornings have already been booked in with the Community Services Team for after the Splash Park closes at the end of season.

The Sports and Leisure Facilities Manager explained that three initial quotes had been obtained for sails to provide shade. Indicative costs were around £40,000 for a reasonable coverage, using four sails. Members suggested positioning shading outside the railings so it could be used all year round. Members also requested officers review the option of charging for a specified shaded area or use of canopies.

RESOLVED that officers would provide the upcoming meeting of Full Council with a report providing costed options with accompanying risks and opportunities for providing shade in Bennett's Memorial Recreation Ground.

73/23 CEMETERY, ALLOTMENTS, RECREATION GROUNDS, TOWN CENTRE GARDENS AND RANGER SERVICE

Members noted the report.

Recreation Grounds – play areas

Members noted the report. Members requested before and after photos from the work at French's Avenue.

Mentmore Tree Planting

Members congratulated the Parks and Open Spaces Development Officer for the success of the project and the photographs provided.

Town Rangers

The Grounds Operations Manager informed Members that some parish councils had expressed interest in using the Town Ranger Service following contact to offer them a service for one-off ad hoc works. However, the requests have been for routine weekly and ongoing grounds maintenance works rather than ad hoc works and the Rangers are currently not able to offer routine maintenance service without additional investment and resources. Officers will continue to seek commercial opportunities and explore options with surrounding parishes and other organisations.

74/23 OUTDOOR GYM EQUIPMENT IN GREEN SPACES

Members noted the report. The Head of Grounds and Environmental Services updated Members that the funding available from CBC was less than originally thought; £3,400 is available. The total cost remained the same. Officers had reduced the installation and delivery cost by just over a £1,000. It was proposed to increase the match funding to £5,767, which would still enable the eight pieces of equipment to be obtained and installed. The Head of Grounds and Environmental Services confirmed that suitable advice would be placed next to the equipment to provide information about its safe use and how to make the best use of it to improve fitness. The only site that currently provides gym equipment is French's Avenue. Once installed the Council will publicise the equipment's installation.

RESOLVED (1) that the Council installs four pieces of outdoor gym equipment at Olma Rd Recreation Ground and four at Downs Rd Recreation Ground.

(2) that the Council uses in year revenue savings of £5,767 as match funding to complete the identified Corporate Plan action.

75/23 REPORTS FROM OUTSIDE ORGANISATIONS

No update

76/23 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

RESOLVED In terms of Schedule 12A, Local Government Act 1972 to exclude the public and press in accordance with Public Bodies (Admissions to Meetings) Act 1961 S1.2 to allow discussion on establishment and contractual matters relating to the following item.

77/23 FUTURE USE OF LUTON ROAD BOWLING GREEN AND ASSOCIATED SPORTS PAVILION

Members received a confidential report. The Head of Grounds and Environmental Services summarised the report.

RESOLVED (1) that Committee recommends to the Finance and General Purposes Committee the release of up to £170,000 of the capital receipt secured from the sale of land at Meadway to carry out the works detailed in Appendix 1.

(2) that, subject to approving the recommendation detail above, the Town Clerk and Chief Executive to provide the assurances and confirmations sought by Dunstable Town Bowls Club as outlined in section 3.11 of the report.

(3) that the Town Clerk and Chief Executive is authorised to negotiate the Council's percentage share of the cost of upgrading the roadway access and additional parking with Dunstable Town Bowls Club within the current funding available.

The Chairman gave her thanks to the officers who had supported her in her role as Chairman.

The meeting closed at 20:38