

Minutes of a meeting of the Recreation and Amenities Committee, of Bingham Town Council, held in the Council Chamber at The Old Court House, Church Street, Bingham, on Tuesday 29 May 2018 at 7.00pm

PRESENT:

Councillors: J Stockwood (Chair), Jane Costello, F Purdue-Horan, P Moskwa, S Orr and G Williams

Officers: S Pyke (Clerk)

Also in attendance: Councillors A Shelton and R Bird

1. ELECTION AND APPOINTMENT OF NEW CHAIR

Councillor J Stockwood was proposed as Chair by Councillor F Purdue-Horan and this was seconded by Councillor Jane Costello. Councillor J Stockwood was, therefore, duly elected as Chair.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

All Councillors were present

3. ELECTION AND APPOINTMENT OF VICE CHAIR

Councillor P Moskwa was proposed as Vice-chair by Councillor F Purdue-Horan and this was seconded by Councillor G Williams. Councillor P Moskwa was, therefore, duly elected as Vice-chair.

4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor P Moskwa declared an interest in item 6 relating to the Play parks.

5. MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on the 3 April 2018, Folio 8882/8884 were taken as read, approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

6. PRESENTATION ON PLAYPARKS AND AGREE ACTIONS

Councillor P Moskwa provided a timeline of the work completed by the Bingham Community Park Project (BCPP) and said that the time had come to consider taking on professional expertise to progress this project.

Lee Sycamore, a local landscape consultant and designer with expertise of delivering play parks for Parish Councils in the Nottinghamshire area as well as advising on a strategy for targeting grant funding organisations was originally approached by the BCPP. The proposed scope of Mr Sycamore's professional services had been printed off for consideration by the Committee.

Standing Orders were suspended to allow Mr Sycamore to outline his services and fixed price contract for Carnarvon Place, Wychwood Road and Cogley Lane. Mr Sycamore is not affiliated to any play park supplier. The contract has been broken down into 5 stages for Carnarvon Place and Wychwood Road. Only stage 1 had been costed out for Cogley Lane as it was felt there were a number of unknowns due to the historical nature of this site. The fixed price charge would not incur any further charges such as mileage, disbursements or set up costs as Mr Sycamore is based locally. Standing Orders were reinstated.

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Mr Sycamore left the Council Chamber so that the Committee could discuss the service offering. The Committee is keen to maximise the use of grant awards to finance the play parks but reserves have been made as well. The Committee were mindful that it needed to continue to be a good neighbour to residents close to the play parks being proposed for re-development and that the project should continue to be as community led as possible.

The Clerk confirmed that whilst obtaining three quotations was best practice and the usual procedure, there are circumstances that the Council's Financial Regulations allow specialist professional services to be secured on the basis of one provider's information. This is such a circumstance; with additional protection being afforded to the Council due to the fixed price arrangement. Therefore, the Council is acting in accordance with its Financial Regulations.

Councillor P Moskwa left the Council Chamber whilst the Committee voted.

It was **RECOMMENDED** that the Council work with Mr Sycamore and that the fixed price contract be included on the agenda for the extra-ordinary meeting on Tuesday 05 June 2018.

Councillor P Moskwa returned to the Council Chamber

7. CONSIDERATION OF IMPROVEMENTS TO CEMETERY PROCEDURES

The Committee considered the report and agreed that it was time to act upon a number of recommendations whilst also requesting further information be brought back to the Committee for further consideration.

On the current rate of internments, it is estimated that the cemetery will be full in 30 years time. The cemetery fees are in need of review as in some instances the associated costs to the Town Council are more than the fees charged.

It was **RECOMMENDED** that:

- The Committee needed a better understanding of any potential consequences of disconnecting the old land drains
- Fire proof storage is purchased with a budget set at £1,000
- That the current procedures and charges include for non-viable fetuses
- That the handling of out of area internments be reviewed

The Deputy Clerk was thanked for her report.

8. CONSIDERATION OF HOW TO PROCEED WITH CUTTING BACK ON THE FINAL EDGE OF WALLENFELS PLAY AREA ONCE BIRD NESTING SEASON IS CONCLUDED

Councillor J Stockwood explained that the Mallard Close bushes, shrubs and trees provide a green screen that restricts the views in to and out of the play area and acoustically helps to quash any related noise. However, the level of growth and lack of grounds maintenance means that the green screen looks untidy, is encroaching into the play area and is restricting the growth of trees as there are many self-seeding saplings.

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It was **RECOMMENDED** that the Town Council’s tree surgeon be asked to visit the site and make recommendations whilst bearing in mind the need to maintain a green screen.

9. CONSIDERATION OF DRAFT MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR BINGHAM LINEAR PARK

The Committee requested that the Friends of Linear Park be thanked for their work in drafting a new Management Plan and support its implementation; which should also aid the Committee’s understanding of which responsibilities fall to the Friends of Linear Park and those that will be directed to the Committee.

The Committee is also keen to see if there is an opportunity to widen the public appeal of the Linear Park whilst limiting any degradation of the site’s biodiversity.

10. CONSIDERATION OF ALTERNATIVE SITE FOR THE FAIR IN SEPTEMBER

The Rugby Club no longer wish to host the fair and have approached the Town Council to see if an alternate site could be identified. The Market Place would not be appropriate given the weight of the equipment. It is unlikely that Bingham Town Sports Committee would wish to host but the Committee asked that they be approached.

11. AGREEMENT OF HIRING A GROUNDS WORK COMPANY TO INVESTIGATE THE WATER-LOGGED CONDITIONS AT WYNHILL

Deferred.

12. CONFIDENTIAL BUSINESS

Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960:-

To resolve that “in view of the confidential nature of the business about to be transacted, the Press and Public be excluded for the remainder of the meeting.”

The following matters were discussed:

- Football Foundation grant update - was received
It was **RECOMMENDED** that contact is made with the Football Foundation to find out whether grounds equipment grants are available to the Football Club and that no additional legal services are required at this stage.
- Linear Park – it was **RECOMMENDED** to pursue the volunteer’s services provided the Town Council’s or Friends of Linear Park’s insurance will indemnify their work and to make a donation to the Friends of the Linear Park.

Meeting Closed at: 9:41pm

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CHAIRMAN

Date: