

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Community Facilities Committee
held in the Council Chamber, Yaxley Parish Council on 25th September 2018.**

Present:- Councillor P Richardson – Vice Chairman in the Chair

Councillors K Gulson, S McMullon, G Needham, M Oliver, S Wayland and J Willis.

In attendance – H Taylor.

CF28. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence from the meeting were received and accepted on behalf of Councillors R Butcher and J Lusted and Mr R Bingham (all personal).

CF29. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

Councillor K Gulson and P Richardson declared “other” interests in item CF33 by virtue of being an allotment holder/member of the Community Allotment on Whiteheads.

CF30. MINUTES

Councillor K Gulson proposed approval of the Minutes of the Committee held on 26th June 2018. This was seconded by Councillor J Willis and unanimously **RESOLVED**.

CF31. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

No Member of the Public wished to speak.

CF32. MIDDLETONS ROAD PAVILION FOOTBALL PITCH – VERTI DRAINAGE

With the assistance of a report by the Clerk (a copy of which is appended in the Minute Book), Members noted that the top football pitch on the Recreation Ground has become very compacted and would benefit from being verti drained. Having been advised that Mel Pooley from the FA pitch care team had visited the site and would be able to do the whole of the Recreation Ground for £550, Councillor K Gulson proposed that the work be carried out. This was seconded by Councillor J Willis and **RESOLVED** unanimously.

CF33. ALLOTMENT

A. LETTER FROM THE COMMUNITY ALLOTMENT

In receiving a letter from the Cuckoo Clearing thanking the Parish Council for all they had done to create and grow the community allotment, Members recognised the commitment and hard work put into the project by Odette Pinegar, the Allotment Co-ordinator. The Committee felt that the success of the project was down to Odette who had embraced and cultivated the idea from the start. The Clerk was requested to reflect these sentiments in a response.

B. WILDLIFE PONDS

Members' attention was drawn to the creation of a wildlife pond by the Community Allotment team. It was explained that the pond had been created to encourage wildlife to the area and had been inspected by a Health and Safety Officer. The pond was at the front of the allotment and the Parish Council were speaking with the Community Allotment about getting the pond fenced in. The Clerk reported that the pond had resulted in another allotment holder contacting the Parish Council to question why it had been allowed as he had been asked to remove his pond last year. In receiving pictures of both ponds, Members felt that the design and build of the pond that had been removed was unsuitable

JL

for the allotment as was its location in a half plot. Members agreed that any ponds should be at the front of a full plot, with fencing around to offer some safety to children and would need to be inspected by a Health and Safety Officer. This was proposed by Councillor M Oliver, seconded by Councillor S Wayland and **RESOLVED**.

C. INSPECTIONS FEEDBACK

The Clerk reported that five warning letters had been sent out after the Allotment inspection in August. Following the inspection one allotment holder had asked if they could go down to a half plot. This allotment was next to the Cuckoos Clearing and the Community Allotment Committee have agreed to take on the vacant front half as they now have a waiting list to join.

D. COMMUNITY ALLOTMENT

Members' attention was drawn to an email received from the Community Allotment Co-ordinator outlining an idea to plant a community orchard. In discussing if there is any land in the village that could be turned into an orchard a suggestion was put forward that the area of recreation ground next to the pond may be suitable and Members agreed that this location be discussed with the Co-ordinator.

CF34. DISABLED PLAY EQUIPMENT - UPDATE

Further to Minute No.24/18, Members noted that the order for the new wheelchair friendly roundabout had been placed with Sovereign and the work to install it in the Recreation Ground would take place over 6th to 8th November.

CF35. USE OF 3G AND FOOTBALL FACILITIES

Members received a schedule of football teams using the Councils facilities (a copy of which is appended in the Minute Book). In doing so, it was noted that the 3G pitch was coming up to its busiest period with week nights fully booked and that Queen Park was extremely busy.

CF36. SKATE PARK EXPANSION PROJECT

Members were reminded that the feasibility of expanding the existing skate ramp had been included in the Parish Council's Action Plan. The Clerk reported on recent discussions with the maintenance contractor for the ramp, who had been involved in the development and building of the skate parks in Brampton and St Neots. It was explained that he would be happy to be involved in any initial consultations to identify what improvements could be made. As a way forward, Councillor G Needham proposed that an invite to local children and parents to join a Working Group with a view to improving the current skate park facilities be placed on the notice boards, website and social media. This was seconded by Councillor M Oliver and **RESOLVED** unanimously.

Attention also was drawn to an email received from a resident regarding the current skate's park location, design and associated vandalism. Members agreed that the resident be advised that the skate parks expansion is in the Parish Council's Action Plan, its location was considered to be acceptable, as anti social behaviour on the facility is low and that the Parish Council were looking to get some feedback from the users, including all age groups, on how it could be improved.

JK

CF37. ANNUAL TREE INSPECTIONS

By way of a report by the Clerk (a copy of which is appended in the Minute Book), Members were updated on work to inspect the Council's tree stock. The Committee were advised that all the work identified in the external survey of 2016 had been completed and only a cherry tree, requiring a crown reduction, in the Recreation Ground would need attention by an external tree surgeon as the remaining work had been completed in house.

Members were reminded that the external inspection carried out in 2016 had set out a programme of work for 3 years. This had been invaluable in the maintenance of the trees and had given the Council a period of liability coverage. The Committee recognised the value of undertaking external tree surveys every three years to reflect the work identified within the surveys rather than the current 5 years recommended in the Council's Tree Policy and Councillor M Oliver proposed that

- any underspend in the 2018/19 budget for tree maintenance be transferred to the General Reserves to fund an external tree survey in the summer of 2019 and towards the cost of any tree work identified therein;
- the Policy and Procedures Working Group be requested to amend the Council's Tree Policy to refer to 3 yearly external tree surveys; and
- the crown of the cherry tree in the Recreation Ground be reduced and the Clerk authorised to arrange for the work to be done after consultation with the Chairman of this Committee.

Meeting closed at 8.45pm

Signed 

Chairman.

