

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Community Facilities Committee
held in the Council Chamber, the Amenity Centre, Main Street, Yaxley on
26th September 2023 at 7.00pm.**

Present:- Councillor J Lusted – Chairman;

Councillors D Chapman, J Clarke, K Gulson, S McMullon, G Middleton and A Wood.

In attendance – Mrs H Taylor - Clerk

CF23. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence from the meeting were received and accepted on behalf of Councillors R Butcher, B Edwards and A Minns.

CF24. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

Councillors Gulson and McMullon declared “other” interests in Item No.CF30 by virtue of being allotment holders.

CF25. MINUTES

Councillor D Chapman proposed approval of the Minutes of the Committee held on 25th July 2023. This was seconded by Councillor A Wood and **RESOLVED**.

CF26. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

No Member of the Public wished to speak.

CF27. BIODIVERSITY

Consideration was given to a report by the Clerk (a copy of which is appended in the Minute Book), which detailed a list of proposals drawn up at a meeting between Reg Bingham of the Yaxley Countryside Volunteers, Councillor Middleton, the Clerk and the Grounds Maintenance Supervisor. The ideas listed were an extension of the alternative land management measures undertaken this year. Members were advised that apart from Church Street, all the areas left as wildlife spaces this year would be left again next year and an order had been placed for the bulb planting on the top bank of the Recreation Ground. Councillor Middleton reported that the Countryside Volunteers had started to cut back the lavender in the cemetery and that some of the plants would require replacing at some point. Rather than replacing with lavender it was suggested that a good drought and pest resistant alternative would be Russian sage.

The Clerk reported that she had that day received a copy of the Biodiversity Audit for Yaxley from Huntingdonshire District Council. The document had been produced by Ecological Consultants and focused on the Recreation Ground. Having briefly looked through the document, it was apparent that there were certain anomalies that needed addressing and it was felt that the author of the report would have benefitted from speaking with the Clerk and the Countryside Volunteers to gain an understanding of the area.

Whereupon, it was proposed by Councillor A Wood, seconded by Councillor J Lusted and **RESOLVED** that the recommendations contained in the Clerk's report be approved and a Working Group of Councillors D Chapman, K Gulson, G Middleton and A Wood be established to formulate a response to the Biodiversity Audit.

CF28. ACTION PLAN

Members received and noted a schedule of the Committee's projects included within the Council's Action Plan, the schedule would be used as a basis for the budget setting in November.

Having noted that the bus shelters have been targeted by a graffiti artist again, Members referred to the lack of policing in the area and suggested that the Police and Crime Commissioner be invited to a future meeting of the Parish Council so that the concerns over policing could be aired. The Clerk agreed to contact him.

With regard to tree survey/tree work, the Clerk reported that she had just gone out for quotes for tree work and that she would consult with the Chairman and Vice Chairman of this Committee on the responses received.

CF29. COMMUNITY FRIDGE UPDATE

Councillor K Gulson reported that the Community Fridge continues to thrive with an abundance of bread and a healthy growing in numbers team of volunteers. Those attending, regularly receive a bag weighing 4 to 6 kilos each and the fridge had started to share the excess bread they collect at the beginning of a week with the Huntingdon Community Fridge in Oxmoor.

CF30. ALLOTMENT UPDATE

The Clerk reported that due to unforeseen circumstances the inspections organised for last week had been cancelled and were being rearranged.

CF31. COMMUNITY LITTER PICK FEEDBACK

Councillor D Chapman reported that a number of new attendees took part in the community litter pick at the end of August which had been followed by a performance from the Coalesce Dance Theatre Group.

CF32. YAXLEY CAMERA CLUB/CALENDAR COMPETITION

The Clerk circulated a copy of a design proof for the 2024 Yaxley Calendar which had come to fruition as a result of a photo competition run by the Yaxley Camera Club.

CF33. COMMUNITY ORCHARD APPLE DAY

Members received details of the Community Orchard Apple Day being held on 21st October between 10am and 3pm. The event is free to attend and would include two shows aimed at families called Buzz and Allotment Project.

CF34. PUBLIC BODIES (ADMISSION TO MEETINGS) ACT 1960 EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC.

That in accordance with Section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (admission to Meetings) Act 1960 and by reason of the confidential nature of the remainder of the business, the Press and Public be excluded from the meeting.

It was proposed by Councillor A Wood, seconded by Councillor D Chapman and unanimously **RESOLVED** that the meeting should be closed to the public and press at 7.32pm.

CF35. 3G LIGHTS - REPLACEMENT

By way of a report by the Clerk (a copy of which is appended in the Annex to the Minute Book) consideration was given to condition report for the 3G lights and the need to consider replacing the lights due to signs of deterioration. Having considered the options available it was proposed by Councillor K Gulson that quotes be obtained to replace the lights with LED high power sports approved flood lighting, that the Clerk be authorised after consultation with the Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Committee to arrange the work, that the cost of the work be met from CIL Reserves/General Reserves subject to a limit of £20,000 and that a request be made to Full Council to authorise the latter spend. This was seconded by Councillor D Chapman and unanimously **RESOLVED**.

CF36. REPLACEMENT SAFETY SURFACE QUOTES – MIDDLETONS ROAD RECREATION GROUND PLAYAREA

Consideration was given to three quotes received for the resurfacing of two areas under the rocking horse and under the slide on Middleton Road's Recreation Ground (copies of which are appended in the Annex to the Minute Book). Having been advised that there is sufficient funding within the current playground budget and earmarked reserves to cover the work, it was proposed by Councillor K Gulson, seconded by Councillor J Clarke and unanimously **RESOLVED** that the quote for the two areas from Online Playgrounds for £8,035.30 be accepted.

CF37. PUBLIC BODIES (ADMISSION TO MEETINGS) ACT 1960 RE-ADMITTANCE OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC.

That in accordance with Section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 and by reason of the confidential nature of the remainder of the business being concluded, the Press and Public be re-admitted to the meeting.

It was proposed by Councillor K Gulson and seconded by Councillor A Wood that the press and public should be readmitted to the meeting.

Meeting closed at 7.46pm

Signed**David Chapman 28th November 2023**.....

Chairman