

Minutes of the Parks and Playing Fields Committee Meeting held virtually via Zoom on Thursday, 25th June 2020 at 10.00am.

- Present:** Cllr I Crawford (Vice Chairman)
Cllr J Bell, F Biederman, J Cann, I Capon, I Crawford and C McCormack-Hole.
Also present: Mrs K Graddock – Deputy Executive Officer (DEO) and Cllr S Kingdom.
- 2006/15 **Apologies**
Apologies were recorded from Cllr S Adams.
- 2006/16 **Declarations of Interest**
None received.
- 2006/17 **Public Participation**
Cllr Kingdom raised a point regarding the review of charges for The Beechfield Centre. She felt that the Centre was to run alongside the Parish Hall and not in competition and gave a brief run through of the hire charges of The Parish Hall. She felt the Committee needed to consider a commercial rate for developers and a reduction for charity/non for-profit groups.
- It was **resolved**, with no votes to the contrary that item 9 on the Agenda: Review of Charges for The Beechfield Centre be brought forward.
- 2006/18 **Review of Charges for The Beechfield Centre**
Members considered the hire charges for The Beechfield Centre. It was noted that the Changing rooms were the same price as the hall, however, the DEO explained that this was to allow for water usage as the changing rooms have 9 showers available in total.
- Some members felt that there should be an increase in charges for developers, whilst others felt singling a group was not appropriate. Cllr Biederman raised his concerns over whether a Parish Council could legally do this. It was also noted that there is a vast difference in space between The Parish Hall and The Beechfield Centre. After further discussion, it was **resolved**, with no votes to the contrary that the DEO investigate charges for local room rentals and in particular parish councils and the item is deferred until the next meeting.
- *** Cllr Kingdom left the meeting and did not return. ***
- 2006/19 **Minutes**
It was **resolved**, with no votes to the contrary, that the Minutes of the meeting held on 28th May 2020 be approved as a correct record and that the Minutes are signed in due course.
- 2006/20 **Budget Monitoring**
Members had no queries on the budget monitoring statement, which was circulated to members prior to the meeting and attached as

Appendix 1. The DEO explained that the Finance and Personnel Committee were looking at budgets at present and that she had concerns regarding the potential reduction in budget for The Beechfield Centre and in particular for CCTV. There had recently been a number of acts of vandalism and anti-social behaviour which could have escalated and therefore it is becoming a matter of urgency for CCTV to be located at The Beechfield Centre. Members of the Finance and Personnel Committee stated that they would feed this back to the whole committee. It was **resolved**, with no votes to the contrary that the budget monitoring statement be noted.

2006/21

Play Areas/Equipment Babbages

Members were reported that the multi-play had now been fenced off with signs erected to notify residents that the equipment is dangerous. The DEO reported that there were two further pieces of equipment that are not dangerous but need replacement in the short term, therefore, it is proposed to complete a larger scale project consisting of the following:

- Replacement of the Multi-Play Triple Tower
- Installation of a Tipi Carousel
- Installation of a Water Lilly Pad
- Wet pour overlay on all play areas that need it within the park
- 2 new replacement cradle swings and chains
- Painting of the swing frame
- Painting of the junior multi-play

Members felt this was a much-needed project for Bickington and that the DEO should also consider any further enhancements to the Park as part of a Section 106 bid. Cllr Biederman raised a query as to whether Section 106 money could be used for ongoing maintenance, however, the DEO replied that she thought not but would investigate this further. Therefore it was **resolved**, with no votes to the contrary that the DEO in consultation with the Chairman of the Parks and Playing Fields Committee is authorised to continue and implement the proposed project at Babbages Play Area, as listed above and that the cheapest but most appropriate quotation is chosen and a Section 106 Expression of Interest Form be sent to North Devon Council before 4th July in order to comply with their Strategy and Resources Committee meeting.

***Cllr McCormack Hole entered the meeting at 10.32am. ***

Members raised concerns regarding the opening of the play areas and that they do need to be open in line with Government guidance. The DEO stated that she was meeting with the Executive Officer on Monday to discuss opening and the measures that need to be put in place.

2006/22

Benches on the Village Green

Members were reported that the dangerous benches had now been removed from the Village Green and that the DEO has contacted the

Fremington and District Community Group but is yet to receive a response regarding a potential project to replace the benches on the Village Green.

Cllr Biederman, as Chairman of the Group explained that he is unable, at present, to get a meeting for the Community Group to formally approve the project but hoped that the Community Group would look favourably on the project. It was **resolved** that the item be placed on the next Agenda for any updates.

2006/23

Opening of The Beechfield Centre

Members were circulated a report by the DEO on the proposed opening of The Beechfield Centre. The report stated that the Government had not yet documented any clear guidance for the opening of Community Centres (it was noted that the Prime Minister announced yesterday they could re-open on 4th July) and that the hirers of the Centre had been approached asking if they would like to return to the Centre at the beginning of July.

The majority of hirers did not wish to return at present. Members agreed that the cost of opening and increased cleaning and utilities would make it unviable to open and therefore it was **resolved** that the opening of The Beechfield Centre is postponed and the situation is assessed at the next Parks and Playing Fields Committee meeting at the end of July with an aim to re-open on 3rd August 2020. During this time, the DEO would work on the documentation and measures to be put in place to ensure a safe environment for all and to limit the risk to the public and staff.

2006/24

Climate Emergency Working Party (CEWP)

Members were circulated the notes of the Climate Emergency Working Party meeting held on 16th June, which are attached as Appendix 2.

Cllr Crawford explained that the CEWP were keen to see rewilding of areas within the parish and are looking at completing walkabouts to assess possible suitable locations. Cllr Bell replied that he had already completed a rewilding project in Yelland, which was working well and was part of a scheme with the Parish Council.

Cllr Bell raised his concerns about the investigation of additional bicycle routes from Bickington and felt there was adequate provisions already. Cllr Biederman expressed his desire to see further disability and buggy/pushchair access but not to spoil the natural woodland trails. After some discussion it was **resolved**, with one vote against, that the following recommendations be accepted:

1. For the Clerk to contact Devon County Council and the DCC Cllrs for Bickington, Fremington and Roundswell to investigate any possible funding and whether they would support additional routes onto the Tarka Trail.

2. That the Clerk produce maps that show both the visibility splays and parish grass cutting and divide them into areas which can be distributed between the Parks and Playing Fields Committee and the CEWP to investigate possible rewilding areas and then a further meeting is held to discuss the progression of the project.
3. That the Full Council is requested to consider writing to North Devon Council to encourage them as the Planning Authority to look at applying the highest standards possible now when deciding planning applications, as documented in the new regulations for 2025.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 11.00am.

Signed: Dated:

Appendix 1

<u>Allotments - Babbages</u>		Receipts		Payments		Current Balance	
<u>Code</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Bal. B/Fwd.</u>	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget
162	Rent	0.00	498.48	273.36	10.00	0.00	-215.12
163	Repairs	0.00	0.00	0.00	450.00	0.00	450.00
		£0.00	498.48	£273.36	460.00	£0.00	234.88

<u>Allotments - Muddlebridge</u>		Receipts		Payments		Current Balance	
<u>Code</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Bal. B/Fwd.</u>	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget
165	Hedge Cutting	0.00	0.00	0.00	290.00	0.00	290.00
167	Insurance	0.00	0.00	0.00	30.00	0.00	30.00
164	Rent	0.00	1,776.60	608.85	1,200.00	0.00	32.25
166	Repairs	0.00	0.00	0.00	250.00	23.50	226.50
		£0.00	1,776.60	£608.85	1,770.00	£23.50	578.75

<u>Parish Paths</u>		Receipts		Payments		Current Balance	
<u>Code</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Bal. B/Fwd.</u>	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget
82	Parish Paths	0.00	400.00	450.00	400.00	0.00	450.00
		£0.00	400.00	£450.00	400.00	£0.00	450.00

<u>Parks & Playing Fields</u>		Receipts		Payments		Current Balance	
<u>Code</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Bal. B/Fwd.</u>	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget
51	DCC - Grass Cutting	0.00	3,018.00	1,137.50	10,237.50	3,412.50	4,944.50
45	Ellerslie - Grass Cutting	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,155.00	474.99	680.01
46	Ellerslie - Rent	0.00	1.00	0.00	10.00	0.00	9.00
148	Environmental/Climate Change	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
55	General/Various	0.00	1.00	0.00	1,500.00	240.00	1,259.00
47	Griggs Field - Grass Cutting	0.00	0.00	0.00	567.00	210.00	357.00
48	Griggs Field - Strimming	0.00	0.00	0.00	315.00	0.00	315.00
139	Maple Grove Grass Cutting	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	63.99	-63.99
52	New Equipment	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,500.00	0.00	1,500.00
53	Play Equipment Renewal/Repairs	0.00	0.00	0.00	4,000.00	590.33	3,409.67
27	Tews Lane - Business Rates	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,850.00	356.40	1,493.60
31	Tews Lane - Electricity	0.00	0.00	0.00	500.00	71.30	428.70
102	Tews Lane - Gas	0.00	0.00	0.00	410.00	0.00	410.00
32	Tews Lane - General Maintenance	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,000.00	30.00	1,970.00
28	Tews Lane - Pitch Maintenance	0.00	0.00	0.00	12,000.00	2,149.98	9,850.02
30	Tews Lane - Water & Sewage	0.00	0.00	0.00	600.00	428.58	171.42
149	Tews Lane Enhancements/Compl	0.00	0.00	8,000.00	5,000.00	400.00	12,500.00
103	Tews Lane - Hire Charges	0.00	3,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	-3,000.00
50	Village Green - Electricity	0.00	0.00	0.00	130.00	52.63	77.37
49	Village Green - Grass Cutting	0.00	0.00	0.00	783.00	198.98	584.01
		£0.00	6,020.00	£9,137.50	42,557.50	£8,679.69	36,995.31

<u>The Beechfield Centre</u>		Receipts		Payments		Current Balance	
<u>Code</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Bal. B/Fwd.</u>	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget
150	Alarms	0.00	0.00	0.00	550.00	0.00	550.00
176	Beechfield Defects (CDL insolvent)	0.00	0.00	0.00	9,500.00	1,092.00	8,408.00
152	Business Rates	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,230.00	414.85	1,815.15
151	CCTV	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,000.00	0.00	2,000.00
153	Cleaning	0.00	0.00	8.15	4,000.00	22.00	3,986.15
155	Electric	0.00	0.00	0.00	750.00	252.14	497.86
156	Gas	0.00	0.00	0.00	700.00	323.56	376.44
160	Grass Cutting	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,050.00	474.99	1,575.01
159	Hires	0.00	3,000.00	450.00	0.00	0.00	-2,550.00
158	Legionella	0.00	0.00	0.00	500.00	0.00	500.00
154	Maintenance	0.00	0.00	0.00	4,000.00	257.99	3,742.01
157	Water and Sewage	0.00	0.00	0.00	800.00	0.00	800.00
		£0.00	3,000.00	£458.15	27,080.00	£2,837.53	21,700.62

Notes of the Climate Emergency Working Party Meeting held on Tuesday, 16th June 2020 at 6.00pm via Zoom.

Present: Steve Jarvis (Chairman), Cllr I Crawford, L Goodger, M Martin Sosnowski, P Smith and K Graddock (Clerk).

Apologies

None received.

Communication

Members discussed the communication between the individuals within the working party and that at present, consent was not given to circulate individuals contact details. A discussion was had on whether continuing with emails, implementing Whatsapp, Messenger, a private Facebook page would help.

Action: For the Clerk to open a private Facebook page and members continue to use email. Also, for the Clerk to issue a new consent form to allow for individual email addresses to be distributed within the working party group. These communication methods are to be trialled for 3 months.

Bee Keeping at Babbages Allotments

Members were informed that a Bee Keeping Policy was adopted at the last Parks and Playing Fields meeting. Members were delighted to hear of this and encouraged the keeping of bees. Some members felt that the Council should promote bee keeping.

Cycleways in Fremington and connections to the Tarka Trail

Cllr Crawford and S Jarvis informed members that there is a need for more connections onto the Tarka Trail and in particular from Bickington. The following suggestions were discussed:

- From Bickington onto Tarka Trail – Through Babbages onto Allotments across field.
- Bridleway from Eilerslie Road to Tarka Trail
- North Lane past The Tomlin Hall which leads to North Down Farm.

Some members wondered whether they would be used as it would be a lot quicker to cycle on the main road. Some members responded that there are many hazards on the main roads and we should also be looking at the carbon aspect.

It was muted regarding speaking to landowners – The clerk advised not to do this as it would need Council approval and there is a procedure in place through Devon County Council in relation to investigating landowner consents.

Action: For the Clerk to contact Devon County Council and the DCC Cllrs for Bickington, Fremington and Roundswell to investigate any possible funding and whether they would support additional routes onto the Tarka Trail.

Rewilding of Verges

Members considered the rewilding of verges within the parish. Cllr Crawford explained that he had been in discussions with the Executive Officer regarding the rewilding and the Council are looking at their finances and possible cut backs in places. He was awaiting maps to be sent. The Clerk advised Cllr Crawford that she

had the maps and could help identify the Parish grass in addition to the DCC visibility splays that need to be cut. It was noted that rewilding can be time consuming however, it was felt that there would be enough individuals to help with a project. The Clerk advised that Cllr Mackie had recently emailed her regarding this and would like to look at a project for the area.

L Goodger raised that many residents cut the areas outside of their houses and estates, so any project would need good advertisement and encouragement to spread the message.

Action: That the Clerk produce maps that show both the visibility splays and parish grass cutting and divide them into areas which can be distributed between the Parks and Playing Fields Committee and the CEWP to investigate possible rewilding areas and then a further meeting is held to discuss the progression of the project.

New Standards on Planning Applications for 2025 – Energy Saving

Cllr Crawford gave an overview that there are new standards on planning applications being introduced in 2025, which included fuel and power and ventilation. He said that no housing after 2025 should have a gas boiler installed and outside heat (heat pumps) and onsite generation should be sought.

Members asked what weight the Parish Council had on planning applications and whether they could include specific items in their comments. The clerk replied that the Council is a Statutory Consultee and should look at material considerations, but confirmed that if the Council wished, it can make a comment on individual aspirations.

P Smith felt that it's the CEWP's role to make people (including the Council) aware that we want the best standards and want the regulations taken seriously. Members agreed it is the Parish Council's role to encourage people to use environmentally friendly alternatives.

Action: That the Full Council is requested to consider writing to North Devon Council to encourage them as the Planning Authority to look at applying the highest standards possible now when deciding planning applications, as documented in the new regulations for 2025.

Any other matters

Joining Parishes Together – Members felt that there needed to be more joined up thinking in relation to Climate Change and that Fremington should take a lead within this area. North Devon Council had started to make progress, but the communication was limited. Members said there were groups already thinking together, such as the Devon Community Energy Network and the Climate Forum.

Action: That the Clerk contact the Lead Member at North Devon Council to raise a slight concern about the lack of joined up working and acknowledge her involvement but request that Fremington Parish Council invite 2 representatives from each local council (not necessarily a member of the Council) to join a zoom meeting to discuss initiatives/ideas etc.

Trees in Griggs Field – The Clerk reported that she had been involved that the trees planted in Griggs Field were needing to be moved due to their location near the drainage ditch.

Action: Cllr Crawford would contact Cllr Groves to rectify this matter and the Clerk would forward a suitable location.

P Smith asked whether the Cllr from Bideford was still due to present on community energy. Cllr Crawford informed members he unfortunately went to the wrong meeting venue last time.

Action: Cllr Crawford contact Cllr Craigie to agree a suitable date in the future for a presentation on community energy.

L Goodger asked for her attendance to be via Zoom until a vaccine is found, as she works in a clinical setting.

Date of next meeting: Tuesday, 21st July 2020 at 6.00pm via Zoom.

Action: The Clerk to organise and send Agendas nearer to the date

Recommendations to Parks and Playing Fields Committee:

- 4. For the Clerk to contact Devon County Council and the DCC Cllrs for Bickington, Fremington and Roundswell to investigate any possible funding and whether they would support additional routes onto the Tarka Trail.**
- 5. That the Clerk produce maps that show both the visibility splays and parish grass cutting and divide them into areas which can be distributed between the Parks and Playing Fields Committee and the CEWP to investigate possible rewilding areas and then a further meeting is held to discuss the progression of the project.**
- 6. That the Full Council is requested to consider writing to North Devon Council to encourage them as the Planning Authority to look at applying the highest standards possible now when deciding planning applications, as documented in the new regulations for 2025.**