

**Minutes of the Parks and Playing Fields Committee Meeting held virtually via Zoom on Thursday, 30<sup>th</sup> July 2020 at 10.00am**

Present: Cllr I Crawford (Vice Chairman)  
Cllr J Bell, F Biederman, J Cann, I Capon and C McCormack-Hole.

Also present: Mrs K Graddock – Deputy Executive Officer (DEO) and Cllr S Kingdom.

2007/22 **Apologies**  
Apologies were received from Cllr S Adams.

2007/23 **Declarations of Interest**  
Cllr F Biederman declared a Personal interest in the Agenda item 6; Benches on the Village Green as he is the Chairman of the Fremington and District Community Group.

2007/24 **Public Participation Period**  
None.

2007/24 **Minutes**  
It was **resolved** with 2 abstentions that the Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday, 25<sup>th</sup> June 2020 be approved and signed as a correct record. The minutes would be signed at a later date due to Covid-19.

2007/25 **Play Areas/Equipment**  
Members were circulated a report by the DEO which detailed that the Council needed to consider a longer-term strategy with regards to play area equipment and repairs and that simply patching up is no longer sustainable or economical in the long term. The Report explained that during the play inspections in June 2020 a number of concerns that needed addressing were identified including 3 pieces of dangerous equipment at Ellerslie. Members were informed that Ellerslie play area was not presently open due to these concerns and that they needed to consider repairing or removing the equipment as the Council would still be liable if someone entered even though it was officially closed. The following quotations were received:

	<b>TK Play</b>	<b>Playground Solutions</b>
<b>Beechfield</b>	£1786.00 includes removal of all pieces of gym equipment  *Quoted for patch up wet pour (temporary solution). At present the Ridge Rider has a wet pour thickness of 5-10mm but should be a minimum 20mm but would be inclined to put 30mm if re-surfaced in the future	£2240.00 includes removal of 3 pieces of gym equipment
<b>Village Green</b>	£650.00 includes new surface by youth shelter (Agri-flex)	£760.00 includes new surface by youth shelter
<b>Ellerslie</b>	£1229.00 includes removal of spinning pole, rocking plank (end of life) and rocker *If not completing Beechfield Gym equipment removal at same time a further £230.00	£1565.00 does not include removal just repair to spinner, balance plank and rocker
<b>Tews Lane</b>	£1309.00 *Swings will need to be refurbished/changed within the next 12 months due to rust. Multiplay not worth spending funds on, is starting to rot.	£1990.00
<b>Mulberry</b>	£1027.00 *Swings will need to be refurbished/changed within the next 12 months due to rust.	Not quoted
<b>Swallow Field</b>	£680.00	£680.00
<b>Fremington Quay</b>	Rubber needs re doing all around edge. Check warranty as looks recent.	£350.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£6681.00+ VAT</b>	<b>£7585.00 + VAT</b>

Members felt that a more strategic approach to play area repairs and enhancements was needed and that dangerous equipment needed to be removed, not repaired as it is likely that any repair will result in

further money being spent in a few months' time. Therefore, it was unanimously **resolved** that TK Play Ltd are authorised to remove the 3 pieces of play equipment at Ellerslie Play Area for a cost of £1459.00 + VAT and that the DEO investigate a long term strategy for improvements/replacements to play areas/equipment and that following the sale of the Council Offices, the Finance and Personnel Committee are requested to vire funds to the Parks and Playing Fields Committee for the remaining play area repairs to be completed or general reserves funds be made available.

Cllr Biederman suggested contacting the County Council and District Council Councillors to enquire about any funding available to them. He further said that the Council needs to be mindful in future about the number and liability of play areas/equipment being put in the parish.

2007/26

### **Benches at the Village Green**

The DEO explained that she had contacted the Chairman of the Fremington and District Community Group regarding a potential project for replacing benches on the Village Green. The Community Group had confirmed they would be happy to replace benches and wished to see a VE Day Commemorative bench.

Cllr Crawford and Cllr Capon raised their concerns about the bench glorifying war, however, some members felt that the bench was a stark reminder of the past.

Cllr Biederman suggested that the community group investigate a possible VE Day Commemorative bench and report back to the Committee in due course.

2007/27

### **The Beechfield Centre**

#### **a) Re-opening of The Beechfield Centre**

Members were informed that there is an aim to open The Beechfield Centre from the beginning of September and that staff are currently working on an Addendum to hire conditions and practical safety measures. Cllr C McCormack Hole raised concerns about the kitchen being available with food preparation and sharing.

#### **b) Mobile Catering Van**

Members received a request to site a mobile catering van in the car park of The Beechfield Centre. This would be a temporary trading van.

Members raised concerns about vandalism, especially as The Beechfield Centre has suffered badly in recent times, litter, the paying of business rates/taxes and encouraging congregations. Some members felt that the Council should support local

businesses, but others felt that it could harm trade to other businesses in the community. There it was **resolved** with one abstention that the request be declined.

2007/28 **Review of Charges for The Beechfield Centre**

It was unanimously **resolved** that the hire charges remain the same for the 20/21 financial year.

2007/29 **Nurse Amy**

Cllr Biederman reported that the original aim was to place Nurse Amy, which is now named Keyworker Kate at Fremington Quay, however, there has been concerns raised regarding anti-social behaviour.

Following the removal of the rotten benches on the Village Green, there was now a concrete plinth that could be used to locate the sculpture. Members were fully supportive of the idea and it was **resolved** with one abstention that Keyworker Kate be sighted on the concrete plinth on the Village Green.

2007/30 **Tree Surveys and works**

Members were circulated a copy of the Tree Survey report for Muddlebridge Allotments, Griggs Field, Maple Grove and the Village Green. The committee were presented with four quotations:

	<b>Griggs Field</b>	<b>Village Green</b>	<b>Muddlebridge Allotments</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
<b>Gavin Hendry</b>	£495.00	£175.00	£185.00	£855.00
<b>The Tree People</b>	£400.00	£200.00	£90.00	£690.00
<b>Taw &amp; Torridge Tree</b>	£500.00	£110.00	£150.00	£760.00 however would offer a discount to £650.00

It was unanimously **resolved** that Taw and Torridge Tree Services be authorised to carry out the works identified within the report following confirmation/action on any Tree Preservation Orders.

2007/31 **Section 106 priorities**

The DEO reported that North Devon Council had requested the Council to consider its 106 priorities. It was unanimously **resolved** that the following items be submitted to the Full Council meeting for inclusion on the 106 priority list:

- Resurfacing and updating of all play areas. Members felt the focus should be on improving what we have, not necessarily provision of new.
- DDA compliant access to Fremington Quay.
- Trim Trail in Fremington.
- Provision of Allotments.

2007/32

### Crime prevention and CCTV

Members were circulated advice from the Crime Prevention Officer regarding recent anti-social behaviour at The Beechfield Centre. Cllr Cann said she was strongly against using a mosquito alarm.

Members were presented with 4 quotations and told that all companies were part of either the National Security Inspectorate (NSI) or the Security Systems and Alarms Inspection Board (SSAIB) as suggested by the Crime Prevention Officer:

<b>M &amp; E Alarms Ltd</b>	£2253.80 + VAT Annual Maintenance fee of 1 service is £50.00 + VAT
<b>Barum Friend Security Ltd</b>	£2175.00 + VAT for system £50.00 + VAT for each visit
<b>Blanchard Fire and Security</b>	£1775.00 + VAT for system Annual Maintenance £70.00 + VAT
<b>Boden Group</b>	£1172.11 + VAT No information on annual maintenance fees

Cllr Capon suggested that there are different types of cameras, but it is the quality that is important and that the quotations received from both M & E and Barum Friend seemed comprehensive and proposed that the Council accept the quotation from M & E Alarms, Cllr Cann supported. He further explained that if the Council are wishing to have Police evidence worthy cameras then the costs would be considerably higher. Cllr Biederman asked why the most reasonable quote shouldn't be accepted as it was public funds and they were also a local business. Some members felt that their quotation was limited, did not provide enough information and did not give a clear picture of the system that they were proposing. Some members felt that this needed to be deferred until the next meeting to absorb the information.

The DEO raised concerns about leaving this until the next meeting due to the increase in anti-social behaviour and that she would not be able to acquire any further information as to what is included within the Agenda reports and that all companies were given the same information for quotation purposes. Cllr Capon and Cllr Cann withdrew

their proposal and it was unanimously **resolved** to hold an Extra Ordinary Parks and Playing Fields Meeting to discuss this item.

2007/33

**Climate Emergency Working Party**

Given the time constraints with another Council meeting following this meeting, members unanimously **resolved** to place this item on the Extra Ordinary meeting Agenda for discussion.

Meeting ended at 11.16am.

Signed: ..... Dated: .....

DRAFT