

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.

2006/13 **Apologies**
Apologies were recorded from Cllr S Adams.

2006/14 **Declarations of Interest**
None received.

2006/15 **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.

2006/16 **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. ***

2006/17 **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.

2006/18 **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.

2006/19

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.

2006/20

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.

2006/21

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.

2006/22

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.

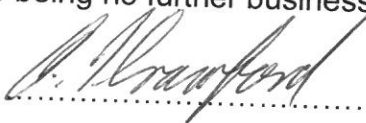
Cllr Bell raised his concerns about the investigation of additional bicycle routes from Bickington and felt there was adequate provisions already. Cllr Biederman expressed his desire to see further disability and buggy/pushchair access but not to spoil the natural woodland trails. After some discussion 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:

10/8/20