

Minutes of the Virtual Parks and Playing Fields Committee Meeting held on Thursday 25th March 2021 at 9.30am via Zoom.

Present: Cllrs F Biederman (Chairman), J Bell, J Cann, S Haywood and C McCormack-Hole
Mrs V Woodhouse (Executive Officer) and Mrs J Wood (Administration and Projects Manager)
Cllrs S Kingdom and A Rennles

As the Chairman was not present and the previous Vice-Chairman had resigned it was unanimously agreed to appoint Cllr Biederman as Chairman for the meeting.

Cllr Haywood entered the meeting.

2103/17 **Apologies for Absence**
None.

2103/18 **Declaration of Interest**
None.

2103/19 **Public Participation**
None.

2103/20 **Minutes**
Cllr Cann explained that in the previous minutes it is recorded that DCC is asked to undertake some outreach youth work. Cllr Cann asked that it is recorded that the youth work is run by Space which is a third sector organisation and partly funded by DCC. Once the youth centre re-opens the Parish Council will have to fund any work undertaken in the parish.

It was **resolved**, with no votes to the contrary and one abstention, that the Minutes of the meeting held on the 28th January 2021 be approved and signed as a correct record.

2103/21 **Vice-Chairman**
It was **resolved**, with no votes to the contrary, to appoint Cllr Bell as Vice-Chairman.

2103/22 **Climate Emergency Working Party**

a) The notes from the Climate Emergency Working Party Meetings held on the 9th February 2021 and 2nd March 2021 were circulated prior to the meeting and the following recommendations considered:

b) Draft Action Plan

Concerns were raised about the timescales and whether these would be achievable, it was noted that it would be a working document and timescales could be amended accordingly. Members welcomed the document with thanks to the CEWP, however, it was felt that the Committee could not agree to points 1.2 and 1.9, the Committee felt that 1.1 would incorporate these points and bring the organisations together within an appropriate forum.

Members discussed the re-wilding of verges and grass areas; it was noted that some re-wilding/planting had taken place in Bickington without authority and agreed that before undertaking any re-wilding it must be agreed with the Executive Officer and the appropriate landowner/authority.

Cllr Biederman declared a Personal Interest as a County Cllr.

Cllr Biederman indicated that to his knowledge DCC has changed its streetlight to LED and asked that the Working Party be asked to mark up those actions that have already been completed.

It was **resolved**, with no votes to the contrary, to make the above amendments and to adopt the Action Plan accordingly.

c) Biodiversity Plan

Members considered the Biodiversity Plan and whilst the Committee welcomes the concept of re-wilding and was supportive of the intention members did feel that the Parish Council needs to ensure it is responsible and any plan/policy would have to be in line with DCC's policies and it was **resolved**, with no votes to the contrary, for the Executive Officer and Administration and Projects Manager to draft guidelines for the re-wilding and Biodiversity Plan in line with DCC's or the appropriate landowner/authorities policies for submission to a CEWP and final approval by Parks and Playing Fields Committee

d) Members considered the request to write to the Gazette in support of a request for an environmental column to be included within the newspaper. It was resolved, with no votes to the contrary, to write in support but to ensure that the Working Party is aware that any official written material for the press must be produced by officers and not individual members of the Working Party.

- e) Members considered a recommendation to Full Council to consider supporting the Climate and Ecological Emergency Bill and noted that the Chairman of the Working Party had requested to speak to the item at the Full Council Meeting. It was **resolved**, with no votes to the contrary, to submit the recommendation to Full Council and to invite the Chairman of the Working Party to speak under Public Participation at the meeting.

Meeting ended at 10.25am.

Signed: Dated: