

Minutes of the Virtual Parks and Playing Fields Committee Meeting held on Thursday 28th January 2021 at 9.30am via Zoom.

Present: Cllrs I Crawford (Chairman), J Bell, F Biederman, J Cann, Mrs V Woodhouse (Executive Officer), and Cllr S Kingdom

2101/20 **Apologies for Absence**
None.

2101/21 **Declaration of Interest**
None.

2101/22 **Public Participation**
None.

2101/23 **Minutes**
It was **resolved**, with no votes to the contrary and one abstention, that the Minutes of the meeting held on the 30th November 2020 be approved and signed as a correct record.

2101/24 **Climate Emergency Working Party**
The notes from the Climate Emergency Working Party Meeting held on the 1st December 2020 were circulated prior to the meeting. Members noted that there were four recommendations contained within the notes these recommendations were discussed, and it was **resolved**, with no votes to the contrary:

1. To support the aim of re-wilding but to emphasise to the working party that any re-wilding must be undertake using the correct procedure and in either March or October, it was suggested that quotations from a local contractor are sought. The locations must be referred to the Parks and Playing Fields Committee for consideration and ratification prior to the commencement of any works.
2. The Committee looks forward to receiving the Action Plan for consideration and ratification in due course.
3. It was noted that the Parish Council had already agreed to support the campaign to ban plastic Body Boards.
4. The Committee does not support writing to NDC's Waste and Recycling Department to ask them to consider covers for plastic recycling boxes, it was noted that this was not possible for cost and efficiency reasons and it is better to put your black bin on top to hold everything in place. It was agreed to deal with this issue locally and try to advertise using the black bin to hold the plastic contents in place.

2101/25

Ellerslie Play Area

a) To consider request to plant trees in the Ellerslie Play Area

Members were informed that the Parish Council had been approached by an outdoor educator at Sticklepath Primary School where they have developed, with the children, a diverse, wildlife friendly habitat in their grounds. They are now looking to areas beyond the school and have asked if they could plant a small copse of trees from the Devon Wildlife Trust in the Ellerslie Play Area.

The Maintenance and Amenities Operative had met the educator on site to discuss the proposal and a map showing the species and proposed locations was circulated prior to the meeting. Members were informed that the land is leased, and landowner permission might be required, the Executive Officer had submitted the plans to the North Devon Council for consideration. It was noted that once planted the Parish Council would be liable for the ongoing maintenance and inspection of the trees in the future.

Members discussed the proposals and concerns were raised about some of the species and location of trees in a play area and the maintenance obligations that the trees would place on the Parish Council in the future, after discussion it was **resolved**, with no votes to the contrary and one abstention, to delegate to the Executive Officer in conjunction with Cllr Crawford to discuss an alternative proposal of just fruit trees along the western boundary with Ellerslie Road and subject to permission from NDC as the landowner.

b) To consider request to remove the youth shelter in the Ellerslie Play Area

Members were informed that the Parish Council had received a request to consider removing the youth shelter in the Ellerslie Play Area due to anti-social behaviour. Members were further informed that funds to remove the shelter would not be available until the new financial year. Members discussed the proposal and whether the request was backed by evidence. It was felt that the youth of the parish have lost quite a few pieces of equipment lately and it would be better to put the decision back in their hands. It was **resolved**, with no votes to the contrary, to place a sign on the youth shelter informing those using it that it is under threat due to anti-social behaviour, encourage them to report any such behaviour and give them the chance to improve the behaviour experienced in the area. It was further agreed to write to DCC and ask if youth workers could undertake some outreach work in the area.

2101/26 **Fremington and District Environment Group**

Members were informed that the Fremington and District Environment Group had disbanded and had donated its remaining funds of £299.12 towards the re-wilding project.

It was **resolved**, with no votes to the contrary, to note with thanks to the Fremington and District Environment Group and notify the Climate Emergency Working Party of the donation.

Meeting ended at 10.15am.

Signed: Dated: