

**Minutes of the Parks & Open Spaces Committee Meeting
held on Monday 3rd April 2023 at 6.00pm at The Beechfield Centre,
Beechfield Road, Fremington**

Present: Cllrs S Adams (Chairman), F Biederman, C Connell and A Rennles

Mrs V Woodhouse, Executive Officer
Mrs J Wood, Administration and Projects Manager

Cllrs J Cann, S Kingdom and H Walker

2304/01 **Apologies for Absence**

None.

2304/02 **Declarations of Interest**

Cllr Biederman declared a Personal Interest as Chairman of the Community Group.

2304/03 **Public Participation Period**

None.

2304/04 **Minutes**

It was **resolved**, with no votes to the contrary, that the Minutes of the meeting held on the 6th February 2023 be approved and signed as a correct record.

2304/05 **Beechfield Play Area**

Members considered the following specification for the refurbishment of the Beechfield Play Area:

1. Remove the current basket swing frame and replace with a new basket swing.
2. Remove Toddler and Junior Multi-play and replace with 1 x larger Multi-play suitable for Toddlers and Juniors (2 +).
3. Remove: 2 x Talk Tubes
1 x Picnic Bench
2 x Play Panels
1 x Elephant Springer
4. Install: 1 x Single Springer
1 x Double Springer
1 x Fixed Piece of equipment – like a racing car dragster play structure.
2 x Car Themed Play Panels
5. Make good of safety surfacing and overlay the whole play area with new Wetpour.

It was noted that the Fremington & District Community Group had been approached for comment and they were supportive but would request an additional bench following the removal of the picnic bench.

Members were informed that the anticipated cost for the specification was around £70,000, it was noted that there was £39,868 available through Section 106 funding and £35,000 in the Ear Marked Reserve for Play Area Maintenance.

It was **resolved**, with no votes to the contrary, to agree the specification with an additional bench and start the tender process.

2304/06

Ellerslie Play Area

a) To receive and consider details and draft specification for upgrade to the play area.

Members received a copy of the proposed design for the Ellerslie Play Area which included the removal of existing equipment and installation of toddler swings (with cradle and tango seats), inclusive roundabout, trampoline, spinner bowl, springer and a dragon play structure along with a new gate, pathway and safety surfacing. It was noted that the cost was around £46,000, £42,000 was available in Section 106 funding with the remainder being made up from the County Cllrs grant funding and Parish Council funds.

It was **resolved**, with no votes to the contrary, to approve the proposed design and specification for the upgrades and place on Contract Finder as part of the quotation process.

b) To consider request to plant trees.

Members were informed that the Parish Council had been approached by North Devon Council for permission to plant 3 or 4 dwarf or semi-dwarf trees following the removal by DCC of the trees along the A3125 as part of the proposed highway works. Members were supportive of the request but felt they should be planted in appropriate places and not near the location of the current Scout Hut, there were also concerns about ensuring they did not obscure the view of the play area for safeguarding reasons and it was **resolved**, with no votes to the contrary, to approve the planting of 3 or 4 trees in the Ellerslie Road Play Area, in consultation with ward members, and as long as they are not positioned near the Scout Hut and are in appropriate locations.

2304/07

Fremington Football Club

Members considered a request from the Football Club; it was noted that the Parish Council had previously given permission for a similar storage container along the side of the changing rooms and the request was for a smaller and slightly different structure. Members considered the request and were generally supportive, however, it was felt that the Parish Council would need to ensure that measures were put in place to prevent people from jumping between the roof of the Beechfield Centre

and the storage container and would need to seek legal advice on leasing/licencing the land for the use and it was **resolved**, with no votes to the contrary, to approve subject to the above and delegate to the Executive Officer to pursue.

Members reviewed the licence and a request from the Football Club to licence the pitch for more hours. Concerns were raised about the pitches ability to cope with increased usage and the reduction in availability of the open space for the community to use. It was **resolved**, with no votes to the contrary, to renew the licence for Saturdays 12pm – 6pm, Sundays 9am – 6pm and 2 x 3-hour training sessions a week, likely to be Tuesdays and Thursdays but to be agreed with the club at an annual cost of £900 to protect the amenity of the open space.

2304/08 It was **resolved** that under Section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 that the public and press be excluded from the meeting for the following item as it involves the likely disclosure of confidential information.

PART B

2304/09 **Ellerslie Lease**
Members were informed that the Scouts were still on a Tenancy at Will due to concerns raised about the condition of the building, it was noted that this was meant to be a temporary solution and the solicitor's advice was now that the Parish Council sub leases the land on a 2/3 year lease with the right for the Scouts to retain its fixture whilst encouraging them to ensure the building is replaced during this time.

Members discussed and considered the options it was noted that there would be the potential for the Scouts to use the pavilion at Tews Lane and this should be explored further, there may also be an option for them to use the facilities at the new school. Members were concerned about the safety of the current building.

It was **resolved**, with no votes to the contrary, to:

- Provide a sub-lease for the land to the Scouts with the right to retain its fixture for a maximum of 3 years.
- To investigate options with the Scouts for a new premises, even if temporary.
- To encourage the Scouts to work towards a realistic project which will ensure the replacement of the building within the 3-year lease.
- To ask the Scouts to investigate its Health and Safety responsibilities in relation to the building.

The meeting closed at 6.55pm.

Signed: Dated: