

Minutes of a meeting of the Community, Recreation and Amenities Committee of Bingham Town Council held in the Council Chamber at The Old Court House, Church Street, Bingham on Tuesday 03 October 2023 at 7.15pm

PRESENT:

Councillors: G Williams, A Shelton, R Bird, W Stapleton, V Leach, N Jejna and S Perkins.

Officers: J Riddle (Clerk)

Public: 5 Including Cllrs F Purdue-Horan, N Mees and P Walters.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

All members of the committee were present.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor G Williams declared a non pecuniary interest in items 11 & 12 as a Committee Member of the Clubs involved and would abstain from the voting on these items.

3. MINUTES

Minutes of the meeting of the Community and Environment Committee held on 01 August 2023, Folios 10092 to 10094, were taken as read, approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

4. UPDATE ON OUTSTANDING DECISIONS

The committee noted the report and updates.

5. BUDGET TO ACTUALS REPORT TO 31 AUGUST 2023

The Clerk updated the committee on budgets and that contractor support for staff capacity would likely exceed the Cemetery Maintenance and Play Area/Open Space Maintenance budgets. Predictions would be monitored by the Finance, Policy and Resources Committee.

6. ANNUAL TREE SURVEY & QUOTATION

The committee reviewed the report and that additional work that required outsourcing due to staff capacity. With external work, the costs were likely to be considerably higher than the budget allowance. Some of the work was classified as routine and could potentially be completed in house as staffing capacity increases.

RECOMMEND: that the moderate risk work be instructed within the committee budget.

7. CEMETERY REVIEW

The Committee noted the report from the ICCM and the recommendations within the report. To assist Councillors, it was agreed that a site visit of the Cemetery be arranged before considering all of the recommendations in full. The fees and regulations were considered the priority.

RECOMMEND: that the Cemetery rules and regulations and review of the fee structure be actioned as the priority.

8. CEMETERY REQUESTS

(a) Grant of exclusive right for memorial permission

RECOMMEND: that an exclusive right of burial be issued for a period of 20 years at a cost of £40.

(b) Grant of exclusive right for interment of ashes in a grave of unconfirmed ownership

As part of the cemetery review, the committee noted that a policy would be created regarding the issuing of new grants for those graves where no Council or Family paperwork exists to confirm ownership.

RECOMMEND: that an exclusive right of burial be issued for a period of 20 years at a cost of £40.

(c) Request for memorial edge

RECOMMEND: that the item be deferred until the site visit has taken place.

9. WYNHILL

(a) Removal of small hedge

The committee were updated on the small area of hedge at the front windows of the pavilion and the issues accessing for maintenance.

RECOMMEND: that the small area of hedge be removed.

(b) Plans to utilise the second pitch

The committee were updated on the expansion of the Club and ages of players requiring use of a second pitch for the next season. The Club had previously had goal posts on the second pitch and wished to progress plans for the second pitch to have goal installed and the appropriate fencing to protect residents properties would be considered as part of the plans.

RECOMMEND: to give in principle support for the goals and screening and plans would be considered by the committee when more detail is known.

10. OUTSOURCING OF WORK TO ASSIST STAFF CAPACITY

The committee noted that report on the items of work outsourced to assist with capacity. A query was raised about the cutting of Warners Paddock and the costs incurred to cut. It was noted that the grass was lowered to keep the obstacles visible until removal was arranged. The Bins were also noted as a potential cost increase for the 2024/25 financial year and that bin emptying was not being outsourced at present, other than for staff holidays/sickness.

11. SOLAR PANELS ON BUTT FIELD

The committee were updated that Bingham Town Sports Club had progressed plans for Solar Panel installation on the pavilion at Butt Field. The project was in the region of £40,000 and the Club were seeking permission from the Town Council as the building owner to progress an installation and had also enquired about financial support for the project. The Clerk updated the committee that the Club had been given the option of the Council being asked to lead the project, but the Club had wished to remain as project owners. The VAT element was therefore an increased project cost for the Club. The Club were seeking a pre Christmas installation and it was agreed that any request for financial support would need to be considered at the October meeting of the Finance, Policy and Resources Committee, to allow a Full Council decision to be communicated in November prior to installation.

RECOMMEND: in principle support for Solar Panels to be fitted with confirmation that the costs and maintenance responsibility was the responsibility of Bingham Town Sports Club.

12. CRICKET STORAGE AND SCORE BOARD AT BUTT FIELD SPORTS GROUND

The committee received draft plans from Bingham Cricket Club for a project to improve part of the old pavilion building for cricket storage and a new score board.

RECOMMEND: in principle support for the plans for improvements to the old pavilion and a new score board.

13. ALLOTMENT FENCING WORKS AND TENANTS WAITING LIST

The committee were updated on the work by Network Rail to install new fencing between the Hill Drive allotments and the railway tracks. The work had not been without issues, but the fencing was now completed and some last outstanding pieces of work were being chased.

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Standing orders were suspended at 9.08pm to allow a representative of the Allotments Association to address the committee. Standing orders were re-instated at 9.17pm. The committee also considered the creation of a tenants waiting list as there had been previous moves in the past when plots became available but no policy existed to support that process. The Clerk advised that having a waiting list and policy would be a fair and transparent way to proceed. The committee also considered the request for a current tenant to move to an adjacent smaller plot that was becoming available. It was agreed that a policy was required to assist the staff with future requests.

RECOMMEND: that without setting a precedent, the tenant be permitted to move plot.

14. AWARD OF £1000 TO SUPPORT THE CHRISTMAS MARKET FROM THE UKSPF FUND

The committee noted the award and that the Clerk would work with Bingham Community Events to deliver an addition to the Christmas Market with the grant.

15. CORRESPONDENCE

The following items of correspondence was received:

(a) Nottinghamshire & Nottingham Waste Local Plan Consultation – the committee noted the consultation.

16. CONFIDENTIAL

- Civic Awards

RECOMMEND: that four awards be granted and that arrangements to present the awards be made for the Christmas Market and Light Switch on Event.

The meeting closed at 9.39pm

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CHAIRMAN

Date:
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RECOMMENDATIONS:

- The moderate risk tree work be instructed within the committee budget.
- The Cemetery rules and regulations and review of the fee structure be actioned as the priority.
- Two exclusive right of burials be issued for a period of 20 years at a cost of £40.
- A memorial edge request be deferred until a cemetery site visit has taken place.
- A small area of hedge be removed in front of Wynhill Pavilion
- In principle support for the goals and screening on the second pitch at Wynhill
- In principle support for Solar Panels to be fitted with confirmation that the costs and maintenance responsibility was the responsibility of Bingham Town Sports Club.
- In principle support for the plans for improvements to the old pavilion and a new score board at Butt Field.
- Without setting a precedent, the tenant be permitted to move plots at the allotment site and a policy to be created for tenants move requests.
- Four Civic Awards be granted and that arrangements to present the awards be made for the Christmas Market and Light Switch on Event.