

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE AMENITIES, LAND AND PROPERTIES
COMMITTEE, HELD ON WEDNESDAY 9th January 2019 AT THE
COUNCIL CHAMBER, KINGS HOUSE, THETFORD STARTING AT 2.00 P.M

Present:

Councillors:

S J Armes
B J Canham (Chair)
C Harvey
T J Jermy
F Robinson

M P Brindle
D M Crawford
J Hollis
J Newton (Vice Chair)

Officers in attendance:

Roz Barnett
Chris Crimmen

Amenities Land and Property Officer
Committee Secretary

Also in attendance to present to Councillors prior to the meeting starting:
Larry Gray - Larry Gray & Sons Funfair regarding agenda number 570/18
Paul Norris – Bush Adventures UK regarding 571/18.

MINUTES

566/18 DECLARATIONS OF ANY DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY/NON-PECUNIARY INTERESTS

Councillor T J Jermy declared a pecuniary interest in agenda number 584/18.

567/18 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillor R G Kybird.

568/18 MINUTES

RESOLVED: The minutes of the Committee's meeting held on the 7th of November 2018, received by Council on 27th November 2018 be confirmed as a true record and signed/initialled by the Committee Chairman.

569/18 ACTION POINTS & UPDATES

The Chairperson/ALP Officer updated the committee on last month's action points included in supporting documents:

- The first final account received was £46,871.39 from Norse for the British Legion works against a contract sum of £46,249.87. Richard Leigh negotiated on our behalf and following a review, the Norse final account has been revised to £44,825.33. A saving of £1424.54 on original quoted price this is despite the additional stonework that was commissioned during the project.
- Paving works completed at the Carnegie rooms at a total cost of £5367.30
- The transfer of Maine Street Play Area is now completed
- The insurers are arranging repairs to Castle Park Toilets and they will remain closed until they are completed.
- The final snagging works at the toilets have been completed and the contract signed off.
- Buffalo are now grazing at Ford Meadow. Councillors agreed to keep Ford Meadow closed while the buffalo are grazing as a precautionary measure.
- Odd Bodds have completed the gutter clearance works on the buildings and provided a brief inspection report

- 570/18 BARNHAM CROSS COMMON FIREWORKS EVENT
Following the presentation prior to the meeting from Larry Gray Councillors discussed the Barnham Cross Common fireworks event and considered options for future support. This event has now been going on over 10 years and the free event is really well supported by local residents. Larry Gray collects annually for the Mayors charity and in November 2018, as in past years, raised over £800 which had been handed to the Mayor. Over the years this event has reduced random bonfires and uncontrolled fireworks around the town. He had made a request prior to the meeting for support from the Council towards the cost of lights, toilets and security when the display takes place. After a discussion Councillor B Canham proposed and Councillor D Crawford seconded: It was felt that in the future Breckland Council should be approached for funding either from the Market Towns Initiative or the Greater Thetford Development Partnership,
RECOMMENDATION: That the VEM Committee is asked whether they would include this partnership event in the marketing for town's council's events calendar. Councillors agreed to pay for lights, toilets and security up to £2,000 for 2019 with funds being taken from income for Barnham Cross Common.
- 571/18 MAINE STREET WOODLAND
Following a presentation by Paul Norris of Bush Craft Adventures Councillors were asked to consider a wildlife management plan/development proposal. Councillors agreed in principle that the woodland area could be fenced off to create a safe area for young people and children to do outdoor activities. It was decided to arrange for a consultation with the public and for costs for works to be brought back to the next meeting.
- 572/18 FREDERICKS WOOD
The ALP Officer tabled a draft Management Plan and there followed a discussion. It was decided to visit the wood mark the trees that need to be removed/cut back with those trees that were overhanging resident's property given priority. The ALP Officer will be accompanied by Councillors J Hollis and C Harvey.
- 573/18 TREE PLANTING
Councillors agreed locations for planting trees on Barnham Cross Playing Fields, Melford Common and Castle Park.
- 574/18 ST PETERS CHURCH
Councillors consider access report, specification for intermediate plumbing works and full restoration. It was noted that the report had recommended replacing all the roof tiles with Welsh slate. Councillors agreed to specify the works based on the architects report acknowledging that this will increase costs. Councillors also noted the access report recommendations and asked that Breckland and Staniforth be approached about access routes.
- 575/18 HEALTH AND SAFETY
Councillors considered the review of actions paper completed after summer health and safety reports were received from the consultants. It was noted that the ALP officer was arranging follow up visits to lease holders to check actions had been completed. It was also noted that concerns were raised about the usage of equipment in the workshop and The ALP officer was waiting for further advice from the consultant.
- 576/18 CASTLE PARK FENCING
The Councillors considered the revised costs for Castle Park Fencing and after a discussion it was agreed to go to tender for the black metal bow top fencing.

577/18

WORKS DEPOT

The ALP Officer asked Councillors to consider alternative arrangements for works depot and plans for relocation of Telford Way. Councillors agreed to the immediate relocation actions.

- Works team clear out coach house and use for storage for all the Christmas decorations by the end of January. (Checking with Staniforth trustees for rental costs)
- Move all equipment in the works depot by the end February.
- Arrange for disposal of asbestos and chemical waste stored at Telford Way by end of January.
- Sell 2 old containers at the cemetery and replace with 2 from Telford Way and purchase additional new container 20ft X 10ft. Electrics to be installed so lighting is available. Relocate skip to cemetery yard
- Site meeting with Pat Pearson at Telford Way to discuss what needs to be decorated and repaired and arrangements made to be done before end of March.

After a discussion councillor D Crawford proposed and Councillor J Newton seconded:

RECOMMENDATION: That Thetford Town Council commence the move of the works depot from Telford Way to the Cemetery using three containers for storage of the works equipment. The aim is to complete this move by the 31st March 2019 at a cost not exceeding £10,000.

Councillors then considered the long- term relocation plans but decided to wait until the changes above are completed and a review of exactly what a works yard is need for.

578/18

TO CONSIDER PROPSALS FOR SUPPORTING ORGANISATION

The Councillors considered details of the replacement for medium grants for supporting organisations within the Town. The ALP Office will bring a draft to the February meeting of the final process for agreement.

579/18

HARRIET MARTINEAU PLAY AREA

Breckland have insisted on full planning permission and a vulnerable site survey. After a discussion Councillor M Brindle proposed and Councillor F Robinson seconded:

RECOMMENDATION: That Thetford Town Council approved to go ahead with this play park working in stages with starting with the £15,000 already raised.

580/18

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

None.

581/18

CORRESPONDENCE

Councillors noted correspondence received:

| CORRESPONDENCE TO THE COUNCIL – TO BE NOTED AND CONSIDERED | | | |
|--|-----------|-------------------------------------|------------------------|
| RESIDENTS/COMMUNITY GROUPS | | | |
| 1. | 8.11.2018 | Resident wrote thanking the council | ALP Officer responded. |

| | | | |
|-----|--------------------------|---|---|
| | | for replacing the fencing at Harriet Martineau | |
| 2. | 9.11.2018 | Resident reported duvets at Ford Meadow | ALP Officer arranged removal. |
| 3. | 9.11.2018 | Manager at Charles Burrell invited councillors for a visit to the centre. | ALP Officer listed in Correspondence |
| 4. | 11.11.2018 | Report of aggressive bullock on Barnham Cross common | ALP Officer arranged to have it removed. |
| 5. | 11.11.2018 | Report of accident at the Carnegie room. | ALP Officer arranged repair |
| 6. | 12.11.2018 | Request to plant trees including oak willow hawthorn birch and Rowan | On January Agenda |
| 7. | 12.11.2018 | Rivers group raised questions with our land agent on our fencing at Ford Meadow | Land agent responded |
| 8. | 13.11.2018 | Rivers group requested information on gates and fencing at Ford Meadow | ALP Officer responded. |
| 9. | 13.11.2018 14.11.2018 | Resident asking for permission to graze ponies on Ford Meadow | ALP Officer responded |
| 10. | 13.11.2018 | Norfolk community fund requested report on Harriet Martineau | |
| 11. | 14.11.2018 | Request for dog bin in Maine Street | ALP Officer sent application form. |
| 12. | 21.11.2018 | Report of two cows on Barnham Cross playing field | ALP Officer responded |
| 13. | 26.11.2018 | Request from Pine Close to host classic car event at Barnham Cross Common on the 16 th of June. | ALP Officer agreed pending appropriate paperwork completion and donation. |
| 14. | 28.11.2018 | Request from agents of Battersea Cats and Dogs home to have promotion stand for their lottery programme | ALP Officer listed in correspondence. |
| 15. | 29.11.2018 | Request to prune back trees on Castle Park as overhanging garden | ALP Officer responded. |
| 16. | 5.12.2018 | Resident complaining of tree overhanging their Back garden | ALP Officer responded. |
| 17. | 7.12.2018 | Report of vandalism to the priory well | ALP Officer responded |
| 18. | 11.12.2018 | Complaint of glass not cleared at skate park. Bin at skate park set alight. | ALP Officer responded |
| 19. | 19.12.2018 | Complaint of rubbish not cleared at Castle Park play park | ALP Officer responded |
| 20. | 27.12.2018 | Complaint that toilet rolls were removed from bus station toilets. Staff think that they are being stolen and we are researching adding | ALP Officer responded. |

| | | | |
|---|-------------|--|--|
| | | security bars. | |
| 21. | 29.12. 2018 | Resident wrote to express support for grazing at Ford Meadow. She also expressed concern about the amount of rubbish on Castle Mound. | ALP Officer responded |
| 22. | 29.12.2018 | Complaint of rubbish not cleared at Castle Park play park | ALP Officer responded |
| 23. | 30.12.2018 | Complaint of rubbish not cleared at Castle Park play park | ALP Officer responded |
| ORGANISATIONS AND OTHER COUNCILS | | | |
| 24. | 15.11.2018 | Breckland Planning gave an ambiguous response to our online enquiry on whether planning permission required submitted 23 rd of October | ALP Officer tried to seek clarification. |
| 25. | 22.11.2018 | Environment agency approved the new fencing lines at Ford Meadow | ALP Officer noted in correspondence. |
| 26. | 15.12.2018 | Esmee Fairbairn foundation have invited us to resubmit our bid by the 6 th of March | ALP Officer noted in correspondence. |
| 27. | 5.12.2018 | Further feedback from the heritage lottery was received on our second expression of interest. The officer from the lottery has agreed to visit in the New Year and discuss our projects. | ALP Officer noted in correspondence. |

582/18 ITEMS OF URGENT BUSINESS
None.

583/18 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC
To consider resolving that, pursuant to the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, the press and public be excluded for any remaining items of business on the grounds that publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be discussed.

584/18 INFORMATION ON LEASES
Councillors discussed leases and requested further information before making a decision.