

HUNTINGDON TOWN COUNCIL
LEISURE DEVELOPMENT SUB COMMITTEE

A meeting of the Leisure Development Sub Committee was held at Huntingdon Town Hall on Thursday 13th June 2023 at 6.30pm.

Present: Councillors M Baker; K Brockett (ex-officio); D Cole (via Zoom); M Fearon; S Gifford; A McAdam; S McAdam; A Norton; P Pearce (ex-officio); T Sanderson (chairman); J Taylor & K Webb.

Absent: None.

1. **ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN**

The Mayor of Huntingdon welcomed Members to the meeting and asked if there were any nominations for Chairman. A Member proposed Councillor Tom Sanderson and with no other nominations, it was seconded and unanimously

RESOLVED to elect Councillor Tom Sanderson as Chairman of the Leisure Development Sub Committee for the 2023-24 local government year.

2. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received and approved from Councillor J Cole.

3. **APPOINTMENT OF VICE CHAIRMAN**

The Chairman proposed that Councillor Amanda Norton be appointed as Vice Chairman. With no further nominations, it was seconded and unanimously

RESOLVED to appoint Councillor Amanda Norton as Vice Chairman of the Leisure Development Sub Committee for the 2023-24 local government year.

4. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillors S McAdam and T Sanderson declared an interest under item 7 as Councillors at Huntingdonshire District Council.

5. **TERMS OF COMMITTEE**

(i) The Chairman asked Members whether it was the wish of the Committee to be an open meeting, where members of the public could attend. Members were in agreement that this meeting should be open to members of the public and it was

RESOLVED to do so, unless any private & confidential matters arose.

(ii) The Chairman advised Members that should the Sub Committee wish to, they could appoint co-opted members to join the Committee for their help

and expertise with individual topics. All Members were in agreement that where appropriate and valuable, co-opted members could be appointed to the Leisure Development Sub Committee for their expertise and it was

RESOLVED to do so as and when required.

- (iii) Members discussed and it was agreed that all agendas and minutes of the Leisure Development Sub Committee should be made publicly available for viewing with the exception of any private and confidential matters. It was proposed, seconded and

RESOLVED to do so.

6. **CRICKET PAVILION**

Members had before them a report from the Property & Estates Manager on the proposed Cricket Pavilion project. The Property & Estates Manager informed Member that the existing cricket pavilion was now beyond repair due to vandalism and water damage and would need to be demolished.

It was noted that the funding application submitted to HDC for the pavilion without the sports hall had been rejected. Other potential sources of funding to be investigated included CCC, Sports England, Cricket East, Huntingdon Freemen's Trust, Mick George and the Cambs & Peterborough Combined Authority.

Members discussed the options presented in the report. It was noted that initial concept designs for the options had been drawn up by the architects, and costs had been estimated per square meter. Members were reminded that in addition to the cost of building a new pavilion, additional costs such as fixtures and fittings, installation of facilities, external works, contingency, as well as the cost of demolishing the existing building, all needed to be accounted for.

It was noted that if the asbestos was removed, the HTC Estates Team would be able to demolish the existing building, which would help to reduce costs. But it was explained that this would not be done until after the summer as the team did not currently have time to schedule the work in.

While Members felt that Option 1, a larger pavilion with an indoor sports hall, would be preferable, it was noted that the Council did not have the budget at this time, and moving forward with the larger scale project without having the funding secured would be a big risk. It was felt that Option 2, a single storey pavilion without a sports hall, was a more realistic option. It was also noted that there was the potential to add additional facilities to the smaller pavilion in the future.

It was pointed out that the Finance Committee had previously resolved to spend no more than £750k from Council funds on the project. If it was intended to spend more than this, the resolution would need to be rescinded.

A Member questioned if the vandalism at the existing building was likely to be an ongoing problem when the new pavilion was built. It was explained that the vandalism was largely due to the current building often being left empty. It was thought that a new, well maintained, frequently used building would be less of a target for vandalism.

A Member questioned the cost of employing a caretaker if the new pavilion included a caretaker's flat. It was noted that the rate would be £10.45 per hour, but this would be offset in lieu of rent if the caretaker was living on site.

The Property & Estates Manager also updated Members on the arrangements for cricket changing facilities during construction of the new pavilion. Negotiations had taken place with the Indoor Bowls Club to allow use of their facilities, but there had been concerns about insurance, security and potential damage to the bowls pitch, so this was not likely to be an option. An alternative option would be to use temporary portable cabins, which would cost approximately £5500. It was also noted that the cabins would need to be set up in the car park which would limit parking. It was also suggested that One Leisure be approached to negotiate use of their facilities during the development.

It was then proposed, seconded and

RESOLVED to receive and note the report, and

RESOLVED to proceed with Option 2: to build a cricket pavilion without the sports hall, and

RESOLVED to add an agenda item to the next Finance Committee meeting to rescind the previous resolution regarding budget for the project.

7. **LAND TRANSFER**

Members discussed the potential transfer of Bevan Close and Maryland Avenue play areas from HDC to HTC. It was explained that HDC were reluctant to transfer the freehold, and had suggested this would be a long process and would need to be signed off by the Secretary of State. It was requested that the transfer process be clarified with HDC, as it was noted that this process wasn't followed for other freehold transfers.

The consultations run by HTC had shown that residents wanted the sites to be kept as play areas and wanted them improved with updated equipment. A Member noted that while taking over the freehold was ideal, the priority should be to start making improvements to the sites as requested by residents. It was suggested that HTC should consider taking on the licence to manage the play areas, with the view to take over the freehold in the future.

It was then proposed, seconded and

RESOLVED to inform HDC that HTC were interested in taking over the licence to manage the Bevan Close and Maryland Avenue play areas in the short term, while continuing to negotiate the transfer of the freehold.

8. **DATE & AGENDA OF THE NEXT MEETING**

The Chairman advised that the next meeting of the Leisure Development Sub Committee would take place when required.

CHAIRMAN