

HUNTINGDON TOWN COUNCIL
LEISURE DEVELOPMENT SUB COMMITTEE

A meeting of the Leisure Development Sub Committee was held at Huntingdon Town Hall on Thursday 29th September 2022 at 8.00pm.

Present: Councillors J Cole; D Cole; A McAdam; S McAdam; A Norton; T Sanderson and P Pearce

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 2022-23 local government year.

2. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received and approved from Councillors M Baker; S Gifford; P Kennington; B Luckham and S Sweek.

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 2022-23 local government year.

4. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillors A and S McAdam, P Pearce and T Sanderson declared interests as Members of Stukeley Meadows Ward in relation to item 7 on the agenda.

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. **CONEYGEAR ROOM NAMES**

The Chairman suggested that there were three notable names to be put forward for room names at the Coneygear Centre; Former Mayors Jim Lomax and Beryl Robertson and former Town Clerk Edward (Ted) Bocking. It was suggested to Members that the Meeting Room could be named after Beryl Robertson; the Library could be named after Jim Lomax and the Main Hall after Ted Bocking. Members discussed whether it would be appropriate to name the lobby area at the centre, but it was agreed that names should only be given to formal spaces or rooms.

One Member asked if there were other names that should be put forward, but it was agreed that names of other Former Mayors already had rooms, buildings or roads named after them, with the exception of Former Mayor the late Helen Mallett, who had recently passed away. It was agreed that there would be another opportunity to look at naming something after Helen Mallett and that Lomax, Robertson and Bocking should have rooms named after them at the Coneygear Centre.

It was noted that Jim's wife, Thelma Lomax should be contacted, along with Ted's family to inform them of the room namings.

With no further comments or suggestions, it was proposed, seconded and unanimously

RESOLVED to name the three named rooms at the Coneygear Centre after Jim Lomax, Beryl Robertson and Ted Bocking.

7. **STUKELEY MEADOWS TRIM TRAIL**

Members discussed the issue of the existing Trim Trail at Stukeley Meadows, following previous discussion at a meeting of the Leisure & Community Services Committee. It was agreed that the quotes to replace the whole Trim Trail was too costly, so the Chairman suggested that rather than installing a full replacement Trim Trail, a set of adult outdoor gym equipment could be installed instead.

Members debated how well used the existing Trim Trail was and agreed that installing adult gym equipment would offer a new facility to encourage healthy living. It was noted that from the Sutcliffe Play quote, the gym equipment would cost £12,000, plus £3,000 for installation. Approval would also be required from Huntingdonshire District Council (HDC) as the owners of the land. Members discussed how the purchase and installation would be funded and the Town Clerk reminded Members that a sum of £200,000 had been budgeted for the Covid-19

Pandemic, with an agreement that anything unspent could be earmarked for play equipment. The equipment would therefore be purchased from earmarked reserves.

Members questioned whether a consultation would be required to remove the Trim Trail and the Town Clerk suggested that rather than removing the existing trail in one go, which would require a consultation, items from the trail could be removed as and when they became obsolete. It was noted that the stepping stones as an example needed to be removed due to being irreparable.

Members discussed how to inform residents of plans and it was agreed that once HDC had approved the installation of the fitness equipment, along with the location, a letter drop could be issued to neighbouring residents, namely Haweswater, to inform them of plans to install new equipment, and to gradually remove items from the Trim Trail as they became redundant.

With no further comments or suggestions it was proposed, seconded and unanimously

RESOLVED to approach HDC for approval to install new fitness equipment at Stukeley Meadows and to consult with residents once approval from HDC had been obtained.

8. LAND TRANSFER

Before this item was discussed, the Town Clerk advised the Chairman that all Members who were also HDC Members would need to leave the room to avoid any conflicts of interest and unfair discussion. Councillors S McAdam and T Sanderson left the meeting.

The Town Clerk invited Members to view a map of the town which had been colour coded to denote land ownership across Huntingdon, split across Cambridgeshire County Council (CCC), HDC, Huntingdon Town Council (HTC) and housing association/private owned.

The Town Clerk told Members that back in 2018, a proposal had been put forward to HDC for HTC to take over ownership and management of all HDC land in Huntingdon. This was to offer better value for money to residents, and to maintain a set standard across all green and open spaces in Huntingdon. The offer was subject to HDC transferring the freehold of all land in Huntingdon, save Hinchingsbrooke Country Park, which the District Council lease from CCC with a sum of £650,000 split and decreasing over 10 years.

Members were told that there was the opportunity to bid for the transfer of land again and the Town Clerk advised that a proposal was needed for him to put forward at a meeting with HDC the following day. It was noted that there out of the three HDC operatives responsible for maintaining green space in Huntingdon, two of them were due to retire in October 2022 with no plans or budget to replace them. It was therefore considered that an offer to take over ownership and responsibility of HDC land in Huntingdon may be welcomed but it was stressed that this should be on the basis of a Freehold transfer only.

Members discussed specific sites such as Spring Common and Riverside Park and the arrangements currently in place for these areas, plus the car park linked with Riverside Park and neighbouring buildings. The Town Clerk suggested that to take on HDC's land across Huntingdon, HTC would need to employ 1 member of staff,

which, with an agreeable sum from HDC would cover the costs for the staff member and purchase of additional equipment required if not available from HDC. It would also be imperative to have a tree survey undertaken for all HDC trees, and to have copies of play area equipment reports to ensure nothing was being taken on without proper investigation and knowledge.

Members were in agreement that the proposal at the meeting with HDC should be for HTC to take over all HDC land, save Hinchingsbrooke Country Park, on a Freehold basis with a financial settlement of £1m split across four years and it was proposed, seconded and unanimously

RESOLVED to do so.

9. **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