

HUNTINGDON TOWN COUNCIL
LEISURE AND COMMUNITY SERVICES
COMMITTEE

A meeting of the Leisure & Community Services Committee was held in the Town Hall, Market Hill, Huntingdon on Thursday 23rd January 2020 at 7.00pm.

Present: Councillors: M Baker; A Beevor; A Blackwell; P Brown; J Cole; A Diaz; C Doyle; S Gifford; V Hufford; P Kennington; S McAdam; P Pearce; T Sanderson; A Sedgwick; T Shrapnel; and K Webb.

In attendance: Mr Gillespie, resident of St Peters Road

Absent: Cllr P Kadewere

45. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from Councillors: B Luckham and S Sweek.

46. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were none.

47. **PUBLIC ADDRESS**

A Member of the public indicated that they wished to address the meeting. It was proposed, seconded and

RESOLVED to adjourn the meeting.

The meeting welcomed Mr Gillespie, resident of St Peters Road. Mr Gillespie wished to discuss utilising the KGV carpark on St Peters Road. The resident had utilised the car park for the past 17 years with no issue until recent 3-4 years.

Since parking his vehicle on St Peters Road, his vehicle and others have been hit. The resident had tried to join the Indoor Bowls Club however he was unable to commit to meeting during the working day.

The Town Clerk stated that the car park had been closed and locked overnight as it was for club members only and that it was felt that non eligible users had caused problems such as drug use, no parking spaces for club members and anti-social behaviour.

Members appreciated the lack of space to safely park vehicles on a main road, but also felt that it was unfair to grant free parking to residents when the area was designated for club use. It was noted that free parking was not readily available in Huntingdon for other residences.

The resident commented that the carpark is almost empty 97% of the time and can only recollect a handful of occasions where the bowls club have utilised the entire space. The resident did not believe that the anti-social behaviour was associated with residents and that they have been victims of anti-social behaviour.

A Member suggested utilising the One Leisure Car Park slightly further up the road which was open and have CCTV in operation.

A Member recommended that the gates remained locked at the request of the Bowls Club and that residents are permitted to park on their front garden/frontages.

The Chairman concluded that the Town Council should continue to review the situation and offer suggestions which would help with parking on St Peters Road. Mr Gillespie was thanked for his time and for bringing this matter to the attention of Councillors.

A Member of the committee wished to inform members that a resident had contacted him about parking issues on Prospero Way. This was raised with office staff and was being investigated, depending on who owns the land.

Members agreed that there were parking issues across the 'Shakespeare' area and Huntingdon in general and that more needs to be done to combat this.

It was proposed, seconded and

RESOLVED to reconvene.

48. **MINUTES**

Copies of the minutes of the Leisure and Community Services Committee meeting held on 19th September 2019 (M4) had been circulated to Members before the meeting, the draft having received informal approval by the Chairman.

It was then proposed, seconded and

RESOLVED to approve the minutes, which were duly signed by the Chairman.

49. **RECOMMENDATION OF SUB COMMITTEES**

In advance of the meeting, Members had been notified of publication of copies of the minutes of the following meetings

- i. Media Sub Committee meetings held on 10th October 2019 (M4); 24th October 2019 (M5); 14th November 2019 (M6); and 9th January 2020 (M7).

It was then proposed, seconded and

RESOLVED to receive, approve and adopt the recommendations contained therein.

50. **MEDWAY CENTRE MANAGER UPDATE**

Members had before them a written report by the Medway Centre Manager.

The Town Clerk updated members on the following:

- There was issue with County for the dropped kerb application, work is now due to commence 3rd February 2020.
- The Estate Manager was chasing the contractor to complete the carpark (*delay due to dropped kerb*)
- The kitchen was fitted, and staff were now onsite unpacking and installing items
- Cambridgeshire County Council had visited and were keen to utilise the centre
- Medway User Groups had visited and would be moving across items for storage. Any furniture, items let at the Medway Centre would be donated to charity or would be put in a skip.
- Sale of the Medway Centre site was progressing, and the Town Clerk was reviewing the Heads of Terms.

Members were invited to consider the opening event of the new centre.

- Lady Duberly, Deputy Lord Lieutenant and National Lottery funding representatives would be in attendance
- Thongsley School would be sending representatives
- Members were asked to consider who should be invited, who should speak and the content of speeches.

Members noted the update with thanks.

51. **HEAD GROUNDSMAN UPATE**

In the absence of the Head Groundsman the Town Clerk gave the following update.

- Winter work such as painting, and repair work was underway
- Hedge trimming and tree work was being scheduled and undertaken (Hartford Church, Nursery Road Play Area and Mortuary site)
- Staff wanted to get on with grass cutting following a mild winter but it was currently too wet
- Started work on 3D design for Anglia in Bloom
- Would start sowing seeds next month for the summer bedding
- Training courses such as COTS, COSHH, Fire and Manual Handling and First Aid

Members noted the update with thanks.

52. **HUNTINGDON IN BLOOM UPDATE**

The Town Clerk informed members that there were proposed changes to the judging criteria for Anglia In Bloom. The proposed changes would bring Anglia In Bloom in line with Britain In Bloom criteria.

Huntingdon In Bloom was moving forward and would be applying to the RHS for a community Garden Grant for Coneygear Park. Following a recent

bereavement within the Shakespeare At The George (SATG) group, the Head Groundsman was arranging a tree planting with SATG in memory.

53. **HDC PLAY AREAS**

- i. Members were advised that Town Clerk was in discussion for the transfer of play areas from HDC responsibility to HTC responsibility. To date no formal arrangements or discussions had taken place and members would be informed as/when there were any developments
- ii. A resident had contacted Cllr Sanderson to suggest upgrading Bevan close play area. It was noted that the play area was owned by HDC and therefore the Town Council was not responsible. It was proposed seconded and

RESOLVED that play area schemes could be investigated subject to HDC support and/or transfer and resident consultation.

54. **LOCAL FOOTPATH IMPROVEMENTS**

- i. Members discussed the flooding of a footpath near Percy Green Place. It was noted that this was put forward as an LHI application but refused as the land was owned by Huntingdonshire District Council. It was recommended that solutions could be explored and put before the Finance Committee. It was noted by a member that HDC was responsible for the footpath and should be responsible for the solution.
- ii. Hinchingbrooke Park roundabout. This was submitted for A14 funding; which was refused. It would be presented to Cambridgeshire County Council as a late LHI application on 3rd February 2020.

A Member commented that it was important to remember that the Town Council does not have endless funds available to fix issues that are the responsibility of other authorities.

55. **S106 FUNDING**

Members were asked to consider improvements relevant to sport, leisure of open spaces near to Elm Tree Court, as part of the S106 funding. Members were asked to put any recommendations to the Town Clerk for the next Finance Committee so that the Council could submit a spending bid.

A suggestion was noted as the improvements to the 1935 Cricket Club Pavilion.

56. **DATE & AGENDA OF NEXT MEETING**

The date of the next meeting of the Leisure & Community Services Committee was noted as Thursday 19th March 2020 at Town Hall, Market Hill, Huntingdon.

CHAIRMAN