

RAUNDS TOWN COUNCIL

ENVIRONMENT, LEISURE AND RECREATION COMMITTEE

Minutes: 4th February 2025 Time 7:30pm

PRESENT: Cllr O Curtis (Chairman), Cllr R Beattie, Cllr P Byrne, Cllr B Cross and Cllr L Wilkes.

IN ATTENDANCE:

S Tucker, Clerk
N Joy, Assistant Clerk (Minutes)

ELR39.24 To Receive Apologies for absence.

Apologies were received from Cllr A Fernley. Cllr B Cross attended as a substitute.

ELR40.24 Notification of requests from members of the public to address the meeting in compliance with adopted protocol.

None received.

ELR41.24 Notification of members questions in compliance with the council's standing orders.

None received.

ELR42.24 Declarations of Interest

COUNCILLORS ARE REMINDED THAT IF THEY HAVE EITHER A DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTEREST OR OTHER INTEREST IN ANY ITEM THEN THEY SHOULD DECLARE THE INTEREST AND IN THE CASE OF A PECUNIARY ITEM LEAVE THE MEETING FOR THAT ITEM.

None.

ELR43.24 Minutes: To approve the minutes of the Environment, Leisure and Recreation Committee meeting held 3rd December 2024.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 3rd December 2024 be confirmed as a true record.

ELR44.24 VE Day 80 Commemorative Bench: To consider quotes and designs for a VE Day 80 Commemorative bench.

The Committee reviewed the report and considered quotes received for the purchase of a VE Day 80 Commemorative bench. Members were informed that there was currently a VE Day Commemorative bench (purchased on the 75th anniversary) in storage which also needed to be

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installed. The Committee discussed its preferred location for the two benches.

It was also discussed to install two Glebe Classic benches in the new Cemetery Chapel memorial garden which will be a place for visitors to sit and reflect. This area will also have a water feature installed which forms part of the recommendations to achieve accreditation under the Northamptonshire Churchyard Conservation Scheme.

RESOLVED to

- (i) Approve Quote 1 for purchase of a VE Day 80 Commemorative Bench for £1695+VAT and delivery, as shown at Appendix 1;**
- (ii) Install the existing VE Day Commemorative Bench alongside the new VE Day 80 Commemorative bench at St Peter's Church Memorial Gardens;**
- (iii) Invite all Councillors to an unveiling on VE Day 80, 8th May 2025.**
- (iv) Install two Glebe Classic benches at Raunds Cemetery Chapel Memorial Garden and invite members of the public/business community to make a financial contribution.**

ELR45.24 Skate Park Artwork: To consider quotes and ideas for the Skate Park Artwork.

The Committee reviewed the report which explained that as part of the Crowdfunding campaign for Raunds Skate Park, pints of concrete were sold for £3 each in return to have the supporters name included on a special piece of public artwork. A total of 75 pints were purchased by 48 individuals. A local signwriter had provided sign options to display the artwork on and potential ideas of how the artwork could look. Alongside this, the Committee considered options for displaying the approved safety and information sign for the skate park.

RESOLVED to

- (i) Accept Quote 1 and purchase sign 1 for £1400+VAT;**
- (ii) Contact all supporters who donated to the Crowdfunder campaign and ask them if they would like their name to be included in the public artwork;**
- (iii) Work with the signwriter to further develop the preferred artwork design; and**
- (iv) Email the proof artwork design to [all Councillors](#) for approval.**

ELR46.24 Skate Park Grand Opening Event: To consider a quote from a Skateboard and Scooter coaching and events company to run a Skate Park Grand Opening Event.

The Committee reviewed the quote obtained from the specialist skateboard and scooter coaching and events company, which detailed the full offering included with the standard 'Skate Jam' package, running from 12noon to 4pm. This included the provision of essential equipment (including a gazebo, sound system, generator, and wireless mics), competitions for local skateboard, scooter, and BMX riders, and

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the inclusion of demo riders, an MC, judges, prizes, and support for promotion across various Council channels. The Committee were impressed with the quote and felt that it would be likely to attract strong attendance.

RESOLVED to

- (i) Accept the quote for a Standard Skate Jam for £1,500+VAT.**
- (ii) Provisionally book Saturday 22nd March 2025 for the Grand Opening.**
- (iii) Submit an application for NNC empowerment funding to fund the event.**
- (iv) Book a drink/food trailer to attend.**

ELR47.24 Progress report: To receive a progress report on current projects and discuss any amendments, updates or additions required.

The Committee reviewed the report as shown at Appendix 2, and the following item was drawn to the attention of Members:

Skate Park/Youth Activities: The Committee were informed that the contractor had made good progress on the Skate Park build and are now on schedule to start the extension of the Car Park. Members were informed that there will be a large amount of spoil created from the works and the contractor had given options on locations the spoil could be redistributed on-site or there is an option for the spoil to be taken away.

By-Laws/Public Space Protection Orders: The Committee were informed of a continued mixed response from residents regarding the perceived effectiveness of the PSPO Dogs on Leads order at Amos Lawrence Park. In particular, a lack of visible patrols by the Dog Warden had been highlighted by residents.

RESOLVED that

- (i) The progress report be noted;**
- (ii) The Amos Lawrence Car Park extension works be referred to Full Council for determination.**
- (iii) Officers contact North Northamptonshire Council Dog Warden to request an increased frequency of enforcement of the PSPO Dogs on Lead order.**

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.24pm.

Approved: (Chairman)

Meeting date: 1st April 2025..... (Committee)

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Appendix 1:



Appendix 2:

ELR47.24 - ELR PROGRESS REPORT

Resolution	Action/Progress	Complete	Date Completed	Resolution/ Notes	Update Notes																																												
CCTV	Upgrade current infrastructure	ongoing		December 2024: RESOLVED to research options and costs to upgrade the Council's CCTV infrastructure.																																													
Bassfords Recreation Ground	Install new Hip Hop equipment	ongoing		Oct 2024: RESOLVED to: Install a new like-for-like Hip Hop play equipment piece at Bassfords Recreation Ground during the 2025/26 financial year.	Hip Hop to be install in February 2025.																																												
Saddlers Play Area	Install new play equipment	DONE		Oct 2024: RESOLVED to recommend to Full Council to approve option 2 for the installation of new play equipment at Saddlers Play Area at £23,116.80 +VAT.	Install scheduled to start 14/01/2025 and should be completed by 23/01/2025. Assistant Clerk met with Contract Manager onsite on Thursday 14th November 2024. Installation completed 20th December 2024.																																												
Bio Diversity	Install Living Roofs and Order Seed Bombs	ongoing		Oct 2024: Order 500 seed bombs for £100.00; Install living roofs on the two Town Square bus shelters, with a maximum budget of £3400.00;	Seed bombs have been given out at Coffee/Film afternoons and the Christmas Market and Lights Switch on event. Residence can also collect from the Town Hall. Living Roofs installed on the 8th November 2024. Hedgehog Houses installed at the Cemetery. The Delves and Saxon Hall.																																												
Northamptonshire Churchyard Conservation Scheme	Improve Bio-Diversity at London Road Cemetery and St Peter's Churchyard	ongoing		April 2024: RESOLVED to contact the Northamptonshire Churchyard Conservation Scheme and book an advisory visit. July 2024: RESOLVED to (b) Designated mini meadow areas be sectioned off within London Road Cemetery; (c) Local schools be contacted to explore working in partnership through children building bug hotels, bird and bat boxes; (d) Volunteers be sought to tend to untended graves and plant Mediterranean herbs; Oct 2024: RESOLVED to (b) Quotes be obtained for installation of a water feature; and (c) Quotes be obtained for a VE Day 80 commemorative bench	The Assistant Clerk met with the Conservation Officer on 5th July 2024. The Officer noted that a good range of habitats already exist but there are some improvements that could be made, for example installing bird and bat boxes and designating some areas as meadows. A full report with recommendations is to follow. UPDATE: Mini meadows marketed out and signage installed 14/08/24. Herb planting in untended graves took place on the 15th September. Emailed schools regarding bird boxes and bug hotels 16/09/24. Raunds Playgroup to make four Bug Hotels. 31/10/24: Four residents have adopted graves. Update 12/11/24: The Scouts 2nd Group would like to make bird boxes and bug hotels for the cemetery. Update: 09/1/25: Raunds Playgroup Bug Hotels are now in the Cemetery. The Scouts 2nd group have the materials and will be making Bird/Bat boxes and bug Hotels this month. Update: 20/1/25: The Scouts 1st Group have adopted 5 kerbside graves to clear and plant bulbs and herb in.																																												
Skate Park / Youth Activities	Plan required for long term regeneration of skate park.	ongoing		Funding in place and Planning Application submitted.	Stake Park Working party met 15 May 23 - concrete decided on, on agenda for May 2023. RESOLVED to instruct the Clerk to use the feedback from the Skate Park Working Group as the basis for drawing up a specification to obtain three designs and quotations via an open tender process in accordance with the Council's Financial Regulations. 11/07/23 - Update: First draft of Tender document complete, will be shared with members of the Working Party for feedback. 25/09/23 Tender deadline 11/10/23. Update: 13/10/23 - Three tenders received to be reviewed at Full Council in November 2023. Working Party Meeting held 18th December 2023. Crowdfunding page to be launched 15th January 2024. Crowdfunder complete and target reached. Full Update at Full Council Meeting 9th April 2024. Planning Application has been submitted June 2024. Application is now out for consultation until 3rd August 2024. RTC Planning Committee met on 18 July 2024 and resolved to support the application. Planning application was approved 6th November 2024. Update: Contractor onsite from the 18th November 2024 to start works.																																												
Raunds Town App	Monitor usage / Photography Competition	ongoing		RESOLVED to launch a photography competition for the Raunds Town App from 01 January 2025.	Raunds Town App Download Figures May 2024 to 27th January 2025 <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Month</th> <th>Google Play</th> <th>Apple</th> <th>Total for the month</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>May</td> <td>5</td> <td>6</td> <td>11</td> </tr> <tr> <td>June</td> <td>56</td> <td>76</td> <td>132</td> </tr> <tr> <td>July</td> <td>57</td> <td>103</td> <td>160</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Aug</td> <td>66</td> <td>86</td> <td>154</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Sep</td> <td>115</td> <td>127</td> <td>242</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Oct</td> <td>68</td> <td>86</td> <td>154</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Nov</td> <td>34</td> <td>54</td> <td>88</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Dec</td> <td>13</td> <td>18</td> <td>31</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Jan (up to 27th)</td> <td>20</td> <td>18</td> <td>38</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Grand Total</td> <td>436</td> <td>574</td> <td>1010</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Month	Google Play	Apple	Total for the month	May	5	6	11	June	56	76	132	July	57	103	160	Aug	66	86	154	Sep	115	127	242	Oct	68	86	154	Nov	34	54	88	Dec	13	18	31	Jan (up to 27th)	20	18	38	Grand Total	436	574	1010
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By-laws / Public space protection orders.	Review annually	Monitor		Review annually, update as required. Subject to consideration at a future meeting of Full Council.	Review due before end of municipal year 12/14ear. 05/07/23 - NNC currently holding a consultation on PSPO's which closes on the 3rd August 2023. PSPO's for Bassfords recreation ground and Millfields (Raunds) during council events																																												
PENDING NOT RTC																																																	
Provision of a piece of public art at Warm Park	Review project	Monitor		Written to Roxhill regarding original artwork.	15/3/23 - Update: The developers (Roxhill) have been sold, enquires have been made to the new company who confirmed they are no longer going to keep to this commitment. Further to this at the Full Council meeting on 14/03/23 it was agreed the Council will actively monitor funding opportunities for Public Artworks. 05/07/23 - Town Clerk has spoken to Biz Space about taking on this project.																																												