

RAUNDS TOWN COUNCIL**ENVIRONMENT, LEISURE AND RECREATION COMMITTEE****Minutes: 23rd March 2023 Time 7:30pm**

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

Also Present:

S Tucker, Clerk

N Barker, Assistant Clerk (Minutes)

S Smart, Operations Manager

666.22 To Receive Apologies for absence.

Apologies were received from Cllr D Hughes and Cllr R Levell.

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

A representative from East Northamptonshire First Responders attended to address the Committee in respect of agenda item 671.22.

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

None received.

669.22 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.

670.22 Minutes: To approve the minutes of the Environment, Leisure and Recreation Committee meeting held 24th January 2023

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 24th January 2023 be confirmed as a true record.

671.22 Electric Vehicle Charging Point: To receive a request from a representative of East Northamptonshire First Responders regarding a designated electric charging point for the ambulance responding vehicle.

Tom Hatton, a representative from the East Northamptonshire First Responders (ENFR), informed the Committee that their current electric response vehicle does not have a dedicated charging point, which restricts how long the vehicle can be operationally active. It was therefore requested whether the Council could assist in identifying a

suitable location in Raunds for a dedicated charging point. It was confirmed that ENFR will be securing external funding towards the cost of the infrastructure of the charging point and its ongoing costs.

Members informed Mr Hatton that at the Full Council meeting on the 14th March 2023, it had been agreed for a electric car charging point to be installed at Saxon Hall to charge the Electric Van the Council was in the process of procuring. The Committee therefore agreed that alongside this project, there was a strong case for installing a second charging point for the response vehicle, with a designated restricted car parking space to be marked out.

RESOLVED that:

- (i) **Installation of a dedicated parking space at Saxon Hall for the East Northamptonshire First Responders response vehicle be approved; and**
- (ii) **Cost information regarding installation of the charging point and electricity charges be forwarded to East Northamptonshire First Responders once quotations have been received.**

672.22 Skate Park: Deferred to end of the agenda.

RESOLVED that in accordance with Standing Order 9a(vi), the order of business on the agenda be amended.

673.22 Storage Container: To consider purchasing and installing a storage container at Saxon Hall bin enclosure.

The Committee were informed that as part of the Saxon Hall refurbishment there was the intention to install a storage container in the bin store, which had been made to measure for this purpose. There was a justified need for additional, secure storage space for equipment such as the hanging baskets and water bowser.

Members reviewed the quotes contained within in the report, and it was suggested that a model containing the Grafo Therm ceiling coating would be worth investing in, to prevent a build up of moisture in the container.

RESOLVED to approve Quote 3 for a 20ft Refurbished Container at the cost of £2825.00, and to be painted Dark Green at the additional cost of £430.00.

674.22 Church Steps: To receive an update on the Church Steps project.

Members were updated on the progress of the Church Steps project. The architectural drawings, as amended, were presented for consideration and the Committee were satisfied that alongside the schedule of works, these met the requirements specified.

It was suggested that as part of the tender process, bidding contactors will need to ensure that all existing tree roots are appropriately removed in order to preserve the resurfaced area for the future. Contractors would

also need to confirm the duration of the guarantee for the works, and the timescale for delivery.

Members considered that the main areas of immediate priority would be the main steps leading up to the Church (shown in red on the architect's drawings) and the adjoining paths around the gardens (shown in amber).

RESOLVED

- (i) To approve the drawings and design; and**
- (ii) To instruct the architect to initiate the tender process, based upon the approved drawings.**

675.22 Community Orchard Signage: To consider quotations for Community Orchard signage.

The Committee reviewed the report and the proposed display signs for the Community Orchard.

Members discussed the material the sign should be made of, and whilst oak was considered visually and environmentally preferable, on balance it was considered that stainless steel units would be more durable and less susceptible to vandalism.

RESOLVED

- (i) To approve Quote E for the purchase of two display units at a cost of £1445.82 each.**
- (ii) That the wording and map design options be emailed to all Councillors and brought to the next meeting of Full Council to be agreed.**

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

The Committee reviewed the report and the following items were drawn to the attention of Members:

Markets: One of the solar panel lights had been installed on the entrance sign, with the second light for the back of the bus bay to be installed in the near future.

Hanging Baskets: The hanging baskets have been purchased and delivered.

VAS Sign: The sign has been delivered and will be installed on 29 March 2023, with a press release and photo scheduled for 31 March 2023.

By-laws / Public space protection orders: North Northamptonshire Council had emailed the Town Clerk with a pre-consultation questionnaire to be completed, to review Public Space Protection Orders and identify any new areas for potential inclusion.

RESOLVED

- (i) To circulate the Public Space Protection Orders Questionnaire and background information to all Councillors prior to the meeting of Full Council on 11 April 2023.
- (ii) To note the Progress Report.

Cllr O Curtis joined the meeting at 8.08pm and assumed Chairmanship of the meeting.

677.22 Policy Review: To review the Gritting Policy

Members reviewed the Gritting Policy.

The following amendments were made to the Gritting Policy:

Add

The block paved area in front of the Saxon Hall bin enclosure

to the list of areas to be gritted.

Evelyn Walk is to be gritted in icy conditions only, as determined by the clerk **appropriate officer**. This is not an absolute duty and will be given the qualification of "when reasonable and practical".

RESOLVED to recommend to the Full Council that the Gritting policy be readopted with the above amendments.

678.22 Policy Review: To review the Sports Club (User Agreement) Policy.

Members reviewed the Sports Club (User Agreement) Policy.

After a discussion, it was

RESOLVED to recommend to Full Council that this policy is obsolete and should be withdrawn.

672.22 Skate Park: To receive an update on Raunds Skate Park project.

Members were updated on the plans for the Skate Park project.

An email with three different material options had been circulated to all Councillors. This included timber/metal, composite and concrete with estimated costs and timescales.

The Committee discussed the next steps for the project.

It was discussed to arrange for the Working Party to meet, in order present the options under consideration and collate feedback.

RESOLVED

To arrange a suitable date and location for the Working Party to meet, with invitations extended to all Councillors and members of the public via social media and school newsletters.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.45pm.

Approved: (Chairman)

Meeting date:25th May 2023..... (Committee)

DRAFT