

AGENDA ITEM

REPORT **AMENITIES COMMITTEE MEETING**
 8th FEBRUARY 2011

MEETING **PARISH COUNCIL**

DATE **8th MARCH 2011**

FROM **COUNCILLOR MISS S.A. CHAMBERS**
 COUNCILLOR J.V. NORTON
 COUNCILLOR K.S. PIGGOTT

Purpose of Report

Due to the failure to meet a quorum for the Meeting held on Tuesday 8th February 2011, the above Members discussed the items on the Agenda. The following report is a record of the discussions held and the recommendations made:-

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE

Councillor Mrs. B. Breakwell	
Mrs. J.A. Goodbody	Clerk to the Council
Mrs. L.M. Cooke	Deputy Clerk
R. Shelbourn	Senior Groundsman
C. Churches	Qualified Groundsman
2 members of the public	

In the absence of the Chairman, the Vice-Chairman took the chair.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors P. Lyons-Lewis, P.F. McGowan, Mrs. B.M. Venes and M. Walsh.

DECLARATIONS OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS

No declarations of interest were made.

MINUTES

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 30th November 2010 having previously been circulated, and confirmed as a correct record at the Parish Council Meeting held on 25th January 2011, be signed by the Vice-Chairman.

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

There were no matters arising from the Minutes.

MOTION FOR ADJOURNMENT

RESOLVED:

That the Committee adjourn to allow members of the public present to make statements on Agenda Items.

During the adjournment the following items were raised:

A resident of Elms Park said, as a user of Elms Park with a keen interest in sport and exercise, she wished to express her gratitude and thanks to the Parish Council for such a fantastic resource in the village. She went on to congratulate the ground-staff for the excellent condition of the sports pitches and said it was brilliant to see the area full of children. She raised concerns, however, that the new play area is not fenced as this could cause conflict between the children using the equipment and dogs which are not on a lead. With regard to dog control, she commented that as a football referee she often had to 'clean' the football pitches before a match could commence and also expressed the view that many children are 'frightened' of dogs running free. She asked that the Parish Council considered these matters when discussing the item on Dog Control and take a common-sense approach.

DISCUSSION IN SESSION

1. DEVELOPMENT

(a) New Applications

There were no new applications to be considered.

(b) Planning Appeal – Demolish warehouse and atrium link and Construct 3 office units – Britannia House, Ruddington Fields Business Park, Mere Way

It was noted that Ancaster Properties had appealed to The Planning Inspectorate against the refusal by Rushcliffe Borough Council to grant permission for the above application.

2. CRICKET FACILITIES

Copies of a document from Ruddington Cricket Club which sets out the clubs' views and requirements for permanent cricket nets at Elms Park were circulated at the meeting. The cricket club are very keen to work with the Parish Council to get the nets constructed as soon as possible. The report provides a history of the club, details of practice facilities at other cricket clubs, together with the type of facilities the club would like to see installed at Elms Park. Details of options available in respect of base and sub-base materials, length of pitch, surfacing, cage and nets, together with approximate costs were also included in the report.

The type of facility the club suggest is 2 bays, complete with cage and nets, using a simple concrete base with suitable matting.

It was pointed out that the Parish Council included £5,000 in the 2010/2011 Budget for cricket training facilities, in addition to which County Councillor Reg Adair made a contribution of £1500 towards this project. The Cricket Club have also promised a donation of £200 and it is therefore anticipated that the funding available should easily cover the cost of provision of the type of training facilities desired.

The ground-staff will look at the most suitable area for the installation of the facility, which may include moving one of the Junior Football pitches to another area, either on Elms Park or Jubilee Field. They will report back to the Clerk in time for further discussion on this matter to take place at the next Parish Council Meeting.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Parish Council moves forward with the installation of cricket training facilities, subject to clarification on positioning by the ground-staff.

4. ELMS PARK PLAY AREA

(a) Environmental Improvement Scheme

Copies of a revised layout for the installation of a path for pedestrians/cyclists through Elms Park and Jubilee Field to link with the business park and country park had previously been circulated.

It was pointed out that the revised proposal only included for the installation of the kick-rail adjacent to the new play area, whereas it had originally been intimated that it would run along the whole length of the eastern boundary of the path. The Clerk agreed to contact the Officer at the Borough Council to ask if there was any possibility that the length of the kick-rail could be extended.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the above information be noted.

(b) Elms Park Play Area

Councillor Mrs. B. Breakwell reported that the project was almost complete subject to a small amount of landscaping being finished. It is proposed to hold a Grand Opening of the facility on the first day of the half-term holiday, Monday 21st February 2011, to which all funding parties will be invited. In addition, invitations will be sent out to the local schools and published on the Parish Council website. It is hoped that the opening will include additional play activities taking place inside the Elms Park Pavilion.

It was reported that Sainsburys had offered to make several planters for installation around the new area and these will come ready filled with soil/compost. These planters will be filled with sensory plants to enhance the area and get children interested in the sights and smells of plants. Representatives from Sainsburys are hoping to hold a photo-

shoot at Elms Park to coincide with the opening of their new store on 18th February 2011.

RECOMMENDATION:

That Councillor Mrs. B. Breakwell liaises with the Parish Council Office in order that invitations are sent out for the Grand Opening of the new play area on 21st February 2011.

4. ST. PETER'S CHURCHYARD

Councillor J.V. Norton reported that although he understood the Parochial Church Council had met recently he was still awaiting further information from them

RECOMMENDATION:

That the above information be noted.

5. FLAWFORD CHURCHYARD

The Senior Groundsman advised that due to additional work undertaken by the ground-staff with the new play area at Elms Park they had not yet installed the markings at Flawford Churchyard. However, a supplier had now been found for the 'light-brown' aggregate, and together with the grey aggregate already in stock, it is anticipated that the work will be completed by the end of February.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the above information be noted.

6. WAR MEMORIAL

(a) Proposed works to War Memorial

Copies of a quotation in the sum of £27,200 from K.J. Lipton & Son Ltd. had previously been circulated. Members were reminded that the two quotations previously received had been for £33,465 from Mark Stafford Stonemasonry & Conservation Ltd. and £8,000 from Stephen Anstey Stonemasons Ltd. The Clerk also advised that the names and addresses of references had been supplied by Stephen Anstey.

The Clerk reported that she had again contacted the War Memorial Trust with regard to the application pack in respect of the Grants for War Memorial Scheme. She had been advised on 25th January 2011 that the Trust were "still awaiting the paperwork from English Heritage but hoped to be in a position to send this out in the next couple of weeks".

RECOMMENDATION:

(a) That the above information be noted.

- (b) That a review of all of the quotations received be undertaken at the next meeting of the Amenities Committee.

- (b) Christmas Tree

The Clerk advised that it had recently been suggested that the Parish Council considers the installation of a Christmas Tree within the grounds of the War Memorial to enable it to be lit up over the festive period. Whilst some members thought this a good idea, one or two people had reservations. A discussion took place as to, if the project went ahead, whether the Christmas Tree should be planted as a permanent feature, or be installed only at Christmas.

It was unanimously agreed that a permanent tree should not be planted and it was suggested that in order to accommodate a 'moveable' tree a paving slab could be removed on a temporary basis and a 'socket' installed underneath it. This would enable the tree to be erected in a stable and secure manner. The Clerk advised that whilst there was electricity available on the site, the equipment may need to be replaced/adapted to accommodate Christmas lights in addition to the existing P.A. System and War Memorial lighting.

Whilst it was agreed in principle, the ground-staff were asked to investigate the costs in relation to lights, tree, etc and the Clerk agreed to discuss this matter with the Royal British Legion.

RECOMMENDATION:

- (a) That further information be obtained in respect of costs involved.
- (b) That discussions take place with the Royal British Legion to ascertain their views on this matter.
- (c) That this matter be further discussed at the next meeting of the Committee.

7. CHURCH STREET CAR PARK

Councillor J.V. Norton advised that he had no further information to report at the present time.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the above information be noted.

8. VILLAGE HALL

The Chairman advised that a further open forum meeting for Councillors had recently been held at which various options had been put forward and discussed. Councillor J.V. Norton reported that following the meeting he had informally met with County Councillor Reg Adair and mentioned that some of the options may involve discussions with people at Nottinghamshire County Council. Councillor Adair had

agreed to provide the names of the appropriate people to approach with regard to some of the options being examined.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the above information be noted.

9. WAKES

Copies of correspondence from D. Cox Amusements seeking permission to use Sellors Playing Field for the Annual Wakes between Monday 11th July and Monday 18th July 2011 had previously been circulated to Members.

The letter also asked 'in order to keep prices down for the public who are suffering in other ways with price rises, I ask if your committee would give favourable consideration to any alterations in ground rent'.

The request was discussed and it was agreed to keep the nett price as last year.

RECOMMENDATION:

- (a) That permission be granted to D. Cox Amusements for the use of Sellors Playing Field for the Annual Wakes.
- (b) That the rate to be charged for the hire of Sellors Playing Field for the Annual Wakes remains at the 2010 nett rate.

10. RISK ASSESSMENTS

Copies of an Overview of Projects required to be undertaken in order to comply with the Risk Assessment Recommendations had previously been circulated to Members. It was pointed out that the necessary work would involve the D.L.O. in a considerable amount of additional work, albeit some of the jobs are quite small and could be pulled in on 'bad weather days'.

Members were reminded that the complete Risk Assessment document would be presented for discussion at the next meeting of the Finance & Policy Committee.

The Deputy Clerk suggested that a specialist be brought in to carry out the Fire Risk Assessments as it was felt this was something that the Parish Council Staff would not be confident in undertaking.

RECOMMENDATION:

- (a) That the above information be noted.
- (b) That the Amenities Committee monitors on a regular basis the projects required to be carried out in respect of Risk Assessments.

- (c) That the Parish Council should aim to have all outstanding works completed by the end of this calendar year.
- (d) That quotations be obtained from specialist companies in respect of producing Fire Risk Assessments.

11. DOG CONTROL POLICY

Copies of various documents in respect of implementing a Dog Control Policy had previously been circulated to Members, together with a copy of the Bye-laws appertaining to the Village Green and a list of all Parish Council facilities and open spaces where dogs are permitted.

Members agreed in principle to initially erect appropriate signs at designated sites, as detailed on the attached schedule. However, the Clerk was requested to ascertain from Rushcliffe Borough Council the legal position with regard to the erection of signs – ie -will the erection of signs only be sufficient to allow the Dog Warden from Rushcliffe Borough Council to take action or will it be necessary for the Parish Council to go through the procedure of implementing Dog Control Orders under Sections 55 to 67 of the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005 in order for action to be taken?

It was considered that as this would be a Policy decision, this matter should be further discussed by the Finance & Policy Committee.

RECOMMENDATION:

- (a) That appropriate signs be erected as per the attached schedule.
- (b) That further information be sought from Rushcliffe Borough Council.
- (c) That this matter be further discussed by the Finance & Policy Committee.

13. SUMMER ACTIVITIES

Councillor Mrs. B. Breakwell reported that following the success of last year's Summer Activities held in Ruddington, a group of residents had come together as a group called 'Ruddington Fun' with a view to organising activities during Summer 2011. She explained that although there is a small amount of money left from the funding provided in 2010 by County Councillor Reg Adair, this would not be sufficient for the coming year and therefore, as a properly formed group, they will be able to apply for funding from various sources. The group is determined to carry on what was started in 2010!

Councillor Mrs. B. Breakwell asked whether the Parish Council would support the proposed Summer Activities 2011 by providing venue/s at which events could be held.

RECOMMENDATION:

- (a) That the Parish Council will support 'Ruddington Fun' in their endeavour to provide Summer Activities in 2011.
- (b) That this matter be discussed at a future meeting of the Committee, once more details are known.

14. VILLAGE GREEN

Councillor J.V. Norton advised that he thought the time was right for the Parish Council/Amenities Committee to start thinking about what to do for the benefit of residents with the money made available through the granting of the temporary use of The Green by Ruddington Medical Centre.

It was pointed out that a further inspection of The Green will be undertaken in the Spring to ascertain whether further levelling/ reinstatement is required.

It was therefore agreed that, following the satisfactory completion of the reinstatement works, this matter should appear as a regular Agenda item to allow further discussions to take place.

RECOMMENDATION:

That this matter be further discussed at subsequent Amenities Committee Meetings.

15. REPORTS

Joint Street Cleansing Arrangements

The Clerk read to members the contents of a letter from David Banks, Head of Environment and Waste Management at Rushcliffe Borough Council, giving advance notice of potential changes to the above scheme. The details are as follows:

"I am writing to provide you with some advance notice of potential changes to the above scheme. Some time ago the Borough Council instigated the above scheme with your support to jointly employ a local cleansing operative to clean both RBC and Parish or Town Council land with the respective cost being shared. Slightly different arrangements currently exist in Bingham and now Radcliffe on Trent.

In order to try and meet the difficult financial challenges over the next four years, the Council needs to review its existing cleansing arrangements for public land across the Borough while ensuring that we maintain the high standard of cleanliness that our residents have become accustomed to.

At present no decision has been made, but an option that Members may support is the removal of the five (four in post) part time cleaner posts and a more targeted and therefore efficient re-scheduling of the

remaining Streetwise resources across the Borough. I want to assure you that there would still be a Streetwise service in your village.

The budget options will be presented at Cabinet on 8 February and Council on 3 March. If members do decide to make this saving we will of course promptly inform you.

In the interim, however, I would be very keen to hear from any Town or Parish Council that may be interested in taking on their local part time cleaner on a permanent basis. Clearly this may provide you with an opportunity to exercise greater autonomy over the cleaning of your local area and meet any local needs that may have been expressed. However, any funding needed to support such a move would have to be found from town or parish sources.

Alternatively, I would be just as keen to hear if you would like to explore a new arrangement with the Borough Council which could encompass the Council taking on a wider role to incorporate cleansing and grounds maintenance of town or parish land for an appropriate fee.

If you have any further questions or concerns or indeed wish to explore some of the further options outlined above then please contact myself or Ben Adams."

Members noted this information.

The meeting closed at 9.05pm

Chairman

Committee Chairman

Location	Dogs on leads only	No dogs at all	Unrestricted
Elms Park Playing Field	Yes		
Loughborough Road Playing Field	Yes		
Jubilee Playing Field	Yes		
Vicarage Lane Playing Field	Yes		
Sellors Playing Field, Wilford Road	Yes		
Elms Park Children's Play Area (open)		Yes	
Vicarage Lane Children's Play Area (fenced)		Yes	
Sellors Children's Play Area (part fenced)		Yes	
Churchill Open Space			Yes
Vicarage Lane Cemetery	Yes		
St. Peter's Churchyard	N/A	N/A	N/A
Flawford Churchyard			Yes
Village Green	Bye-laws exist		