

WARBOYS PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the **Leisure Areas Committee** held at the Parish Centre, Warboys on 1st November 2021.

PRESENT

Councillor G C M Willis, Chairman

Councillors R J Dykstra, Ms L A Gifford, S J Green, Mrs M H Harlock, J A Parker, Mrs C L Sproats, Mrs S J Wilcox, Dr S C Withams and Mrs A R Wyatt.

Mr M Croucher (Warboys and St Ives Cricket Club)

APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors Mrs C Evans, R A Payne and P S Potts.

08/21 MINUTES

Upon being moved by Councillor Dykstra and seconded by Councillor Mrs Wilcox, the Minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 28th June 2021 were approved.

09/21 MEMBERS' INTERESTS

No interests were declared by Members.

10/21 MATTERS ARISING

The Committee noted that there were no matters arising from the meeting held on 28th June 2021 that would not be dealt with under Minute No. 12/21 below.

11/21 FEAST WEEK 2022

Members were reminded that the resumption of the annual visits by fairground attractions in July after the cancellation in 2020 had presented problems due to some of the operators being unable to move their equipment from a previous location because of bad weather. Clarification was being sought from Thurstons about their visit in 2022 but a reply had yet to be received.

Councillor Mrs Wyatt reported that the owner of some of the attractions that usually came to Warboys during Feast Week had advised that he had more equipment that he could bring if necessary. The Clerk explained that the origins of the visit by the fairground and the closure of the High Street was not known and that no evidence had been found that this was a charter fair. The arrangements had been made with John Thurston & Sons in the

past but the Clerk undertook to continue to try to obtain clarification with regard to the visit in 2022.

12/21 SPORTS PROVISION

Mr Croucher provided an update on activities involving the sports club playing at the Sports Field. A number of additional players had come forward with matches attracting good crowds and the football team currently topping the league in which they played.

Mr Croucher referred to problems with the condition of the car park which served both the sports field and the sports and social club. In that respect, the Clerk drew attention to funding amounting to £15,317 which had been included in the section 106 agreement for the development of up to 24 dwellings at Ramsey Road which was to be used for the improvement and maintenance of football and cricket pitches at the sports field.

13/21 MAINTENANCE REQUIREMENTS

The Committee reviewed the maintenance requirements of the various areas within its remit as follows:-

(a) Adams Lyons Playground

Further to Minute No. 6/21(a) and decisions made by the Council at subsequent meetings, the Clerk reported that a replacement for the musical chimes had been ordered with the cost to be met by an insurance claim. An examination of the cableway had also been ordered from Caloo but a date when the work would be carried out was not yet known. Members were informed that the only other outstanding matter from the annual safety inspection report was the replacement of the timber edging at the sandpit. A quotation had been received from a play provider but in view of the cost, other options were being explored.

(b) The Weir

The Clerk reported that Councillor Mrs Cole was liaising with the Handymen on the possible cutting back of the vegetation at the bank edges of The Weir.

(c) Heath Pond and Sheepwash

Members were reminded that the insurers of the driver who had damaged the Sheepwash structure had paid a sum of money towards its repair. However as the structure had been in poor condition prior to the accident, the sum received would be insufficient to carry out major repairs. Under the circumstances, no further action had been taken at the present time.

(d) Orchard Close

Members noted that there were no matters to bring to their attention.

(e) Pathfinder Way Open Spaces

The Clerk reported that the owner of a property adjoining the raised area of open space in Pathfinder Way had complained about the growth of the hedging that had been planted by the developer. A tree had been removed by the Handymen who would also be trimming back the hedges.

(f) School Road and High Street/Woodlands footpath

Members noted that there were no matters to bring to their attention.

(g) War Memorial

The Clerk reported on the arrangements for Remembrance Sunday on 14th November were in hand and that the Unknown Tommy would be displayed in the War Memorial garden in the preceding week.

(h) Jubilee Park

The Clerk advised that Wicksteed Leisure had removed the pick-up-sticks unit at Jubilee Parks following damage by vandalism. A replacement multi-purpose unit for smaller children was on order.

No further information had been received from Bellway concerning a change to the construction of the path that they had installed, nor work to the equipment that they had relocated.

The Clerk reported that he had asked a tree surgeon to proceed with the cutting back of branches overhanging the gardens of three neighbouring properties and that he would contact the company to expedite progress.

(j) Onyett's Field

The Clerk advised that he would shortly be arranging another meeting of the working party to consider the maintenance of the land to be acquired adjoining the A141. A bid had been submitted to the County Council under the Local Highway Improvement programme to improve the crossing point of the A141 and it was anticipated that a feasibility report would be received before the end of the year.

(k) Miscellaneous

In response to a question by the Chairman, the Clerk reported that he would be submitting a report to the Finance and General Purposes Committee on grass cutting following the difficulties experienced over the past summer with the current contractor.

14/21 BUDGET 2022/23

The Committee considered a financial statement, a copy of which had been circulated to Members, containing details of actual expenditure on leisure areas in 2010/11 and estimated figures for the current financial year and projected for 2122/2123.

RESOLVED

that the budget be approved and forwarded to the Finance and General Purposes Committee for consideration.

There being no further business, the meeting was declared closed.

Chairman.