

# WARBOYS PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the **Leisure Areas Committee** held at the Parish Centre, Warboys on 7th November 2022.

## **PRESENT**

Councillor Mrs C L Sproats, Vice Chairman in the Chair.

Councillors R J Dykstra, D W England, D R A Fabb, Ms L A Gifford, J A Parker, 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 J M Cole, A Ntuk and G C M Willis.

## **08/22 MINUTES**

Upon being moved by Councillor Dr Withams and seconded by Councillor Mrs Wilcox, the Minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 27th June 2022 were approved.

## **09/22 MEMBERS' INTERESTS**

Councillor England declared disclosable pecuniary interests in Adams Lyons playground and Onyetts Field as he farmed adjoining land. He had already received a dispensation to speak but not vote on matter relating to Onyetts Field and it was

## **RESOLVED**

that a dispensation to speak but not vote be granted to Councillor England in respect of Adams Lyons playground until May 2026.

## **10/22 MATTERS ARISING**

The Committee noted that there were no matters arising from the meeting held on 27th June 2022 that would not be dealt with under Minute No. 13/22 below.

## **11/22 FEAST WEEK 2022**

The Clerk reported that the attractions at the fair in July had included the dodgems for the first time for some years in response to a request by the Council. However there had been fewer large attractions this year, due partly to the high cost of diesel and manpower shortages. As all of the arrangements for the visit by the funfair had traditionally been

made with Thurstons, Members accepted that it would be impractical to approach other showmen about the possibility of bringing additional attractions for Feast Week.

Members were informed that the street market in the High Street on the Sunday prior to the arrival of the fairground operators that day had been successful and Members had no objection to a request by the Community Association for a similar event in 2023.

It was agreed that a band concert be arranged again on the Sunday of Feast Week with the first option for the location being the White Hart and the music again to be provided by Councillor Potts' band.

## **12/22 SPORTS PROVISION**

Councillor Mrs Wyatt reported that she had attended the AGM of the White Hart Bowls Club earlier in the month. Members were informed that the club had enjoyed a successful season and that there were plans to replace the existing pavilion with a new facility to be provided by the brewery.

Mr Croucher reported that all of the clubs playing at the Sports Field currently were successful in terms of results and the number of players was growing but that difficulties were being experienced in attracting volunteers to help run the clubs. This had resulted in the need to pay coaches for some sports which was increasing costs.

Members were informed that differences of opinion were being encountered between the clubs over the provision of better facilities as a result of which Mr Croucher indicated that he felt unable to represent the views of all of the clubs using the field at meetings of the Committee. Nevertheless, Members welcomed Mr Croucher's continued attendance at meetings.

## **13/22 MAINTENANCE REQUIREMENTS**

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

### **(a) Adams Lyons Playground**

Further to Minute No. 7/22(a), the Clerk reported that a quotation had been received from Wicksteed for safety surfacing and wet pour for a number of equipment items arising from the safety report considered at the previous meeting. Due to the size of the quotation, the Clerk reported that he had approached the other two main suppliers of play equipment to the Council. One had declined to quote and the Clerk reported that he was meeting the Area Sales Manager of the other company on site later in the week.

The Clerk also reported that he was continuing to investigate repairs to the timber edging around the sand pit.

Members were informed that the person who had been contracted to cut the grass in Adams Lyons and Jubilee Park this year had advised that he would no longer be

available after the end of the current season. As Members had requested a report on grasscutting for consideration when the budget for 2023/24 was being discussed, the Clerk reported that he would include the matter on the agenda for the forthcoming meeting of the Finance and General Purposes Committee to be held later in the month.

**(b) Jubilee Park**

The Clerk reported that the path installed by Bellway from their new estate to the existing footpath in Jubilee Park had been resurfaced by the company and a kissing gate had been installed at the park boundary. Although there had been some complaints from residents about the kissing gate being difficult to negotiate with a pushchair, Members accepted that it was unlikely that Bellway would make any further changes as it had taken several years to persuade them to carry out the recent works.

The Clerk also advised that there had been several complaints about the condition of the path leading to the park boundary from the estate which was deteriorating badly but Members accepted that this was a matter for Bellay to resolve.

**(c) Heath Pond and Sheepwash**

Members were reminded that the Wildlife Trust were not prepared to undertake any work to dredge the pond under their programme to create newt ponds locally. The pond was now very overgrown but no action was proposed.

**(d) Orchard Close**

The Clerk reported that the spring on the entrance gate at Orchard Close had broken which meant that it did not close automatically. Attempts by the Handymen to repair the gate had been unsuccessful and the Clerk reported that he had asked a number of fencing companies to quote for the installation of a replacement gate.

**(e) Pathfinder Way Open Spaces**

The Clerk reported that the owner of a property adjoining the raised area of open space in Pathfinder Way was continuing to complain about the growth of the hedging that had been planted by the developer. Work had been undertaken previously by the Handymen and the Clerk advised that he would investigate what further work was considered to be necessary.

**(f) School Road and High Street/Woodlands footpath**

Members were informed that the vegetation encroaching onto the footpath had been cut back since the previous meeting.

**(g) War Memorial**

The Clerk reported that the arrangements for Remembrance Sunday on 13th November were in hand and that the Unknown Tommy had been installed in the War Memorial garden earlier that day.

**(h) The Weir**

Councillor England drew attention to the amount of reeds that were extending across the shallow end of The Weir which he suggested could be treated to reduce their growth. The Clerk undertook to investigate the feasibility of carrying out the work.

**(i) Onyett's Field**

The Clerk advised that the hedging pack from the Woodland Trust had now been delivered and that the planting would be undertaken by the Handymen and volunteers later in the week. Arrangements had also been made to meet Councillor England on site to discuss the location for the planting of the oak tree that had been donated by a local company to commemorate the late Queen. Councillor England also mentioned that he was able to supply a number of smaller oaks to supplement the planting on the field boundary.

**(j) Miscellaneous**

In response to an issue raised by Councillor Mrs Wyatt concerning brambles from a hedge in the High Street encroaching onto the footway, the Clerk undertook to raise the matter with the property owner.

**14/22 BUDGET 2023/24**

The Committee considered a financial statement, a copy of which had been circulated to Members, containing details of actual expenditure on leisure areas in 2021/22 and estimated figures for the current financial year and projected for 2123/2124.

**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.**