

STAMFORD TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE AMENITIES SPORTS FIELDS AND OPEN SPACES MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY, 13 JUNE 2023 AT 6.30PM IN THE TOWN HALL, STAMFORD

PRESENT Councillor Andrew Croft (Mayor)
Councillor Bob Sandall (Chair)
Councillor Ed Fancourt (Vice-Chair)
Councillor Bret Allibone
Councillor Habib Rahman
Councillor Rhea Rayside
Councillor Susan Sandall
Councillor Max Sawyer

ALSO PRESENT Town Clerk – Patricia Stuart-Mogg
3 x Representatives from Kiwanis (in-person)
2 x Representatives from Stamford Rugby Club (on-line)

85. TO RECEIVE ANY PUBLIC REPRESENTATION (Agenda item 1)

- Representatives from the Kiwanis informed the meeting that they were preparing for their Big Day Out event scheduled July 2024. It was noted that the organisation had written requesting permission from the major riparian owners' abutting the river Welland to use the riverbank. The Kiwanis will be in consultation with the Environment Agency, who can advise on the event once permissions have been obtained. A full risk assessment and safety plan will be in place once all permissions have been obtained. At the access points there will be specially designed and built jetties or pontoons, but this has yet to be confirmed. The entry point will be from the Freeman's Meadows, with exit near the point of the Town Meadows. It is hoped that there could be possibly a dozen rafts being released at periodic slots, with individual times being noted. There will be an impact assessment being conducted in consultation with the Rivers Trust.
- Representatives from the Rugby Club who had joined the meeting to enquire on the status of the Rugby Club Lease following the Empingham Sports field transfer from South Kesteven District Council to Stamford Town Council. It was hoped that the length of the new lease could be extended to 99years and could be amended to cover the new club house which is due to be constructed with S.106 funds. The Club supports and welcomes all organisations to use the playing field and clubhouse.

86. APOLOGIES AND REASONS FOR ABSENCE (Agenda item 2) - None

87. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST (Agenda item 3) - None

88. MINUTES APPROVAL (Agenda item 4)

The meeting was informed of the method for the approval of the minutes of Committee meeting. It is anticipated that the notes of the meeting would be circulated to Committee members within a week of the meeting. Any amendments are made and then the chairman presents the Committee notes to the Council as a true record of the meeting. The Council then has an opportunity to discuss the content of those minutes before ratification.

89. EMPINGHAM SPORTS FIELD (Agenda item 5)

a. Buckles Overview Report – The Committee reviewed and noted the report. The Chairman stated that although the Committee had the budget circulated by SKDC for Stamford's Special Expense Area, it was noted that no funding is anticipated being transferred until July 2023. However, having examined the schedule provided by SKDC's Finance Officer (s151 officer) it was anticipated that a substantial fund should be transferred to STC in respect of Empingham Sports Fields. Every effort is being made

to ascertain the exact figure. The plan of the Sports field was examined and the locations where various clubs are located. It was important that a site meeting is conducted and that each lease held with Stamford Town Council be discussed with each club.

- i. *Rugby Club* – It was noted that the current lease held by Rugby Club with SKDC did not include the construction of the new club house and was for a short period. Councillor Bob Sandall recommended the new lease which had been drafted which, apart for the period of the agreement, all parties had agreed. During discussion, it was the consensus that the lease should be for ninety-nine years. This would provide stability for the Club and enable it to apply to significant funding sources. All rental rates would be reviewed following an agreed period.
- ii. *Outdoor Bowls Club* – A site visit will be arranged with the organisers to discuss the terms of their lease.
- iii. *Bridge Club* – A site visit will be arranged with the organisers to discuss the terms of their lease.
- iv. *Gas Board* – It was noted that there was a Way Leave agreement in place with British Gas and a site meeting will be arranged to familiarise the members with the location.

Proposal 1 – It was proposed by Councillor Max Sawyer, seconded by Councillor Habib Rahman and unanimously **RESOLVED** that the Council approves for all Leases for clubs which are held by Stamford Town Council are approved for a duration of ninety-nine years.

- b. Any Correspondence received** - There was discussion in respect of the ground maintenance of the playing field grounds. It was noted that currently Environment SK had been undertaking the grass cutting and marking of the grounds. The Town Clerk advised that details of the current arrangements are still awaited from SKDC.
- c. Tree and Hedge work** – The Chairman suggested that once site visits have been conducted, an assessment of the area would be possible to gauge the potential hedge and tree work required. The committee was circulated with the existing Tree Report which was noted. Should any Councillor require any further information in respect of the report they should contact the Town Clerk.
- d. Budget** – It was considered that this would be deferred until further details have been received in respect of the Special Expense Area fund.

90. UFFINGTON ROAD SPORTS FIELD (Agenda item 6)

- a. Buckles Overview Report** - The Committee reviewed and noted the report. The Chairman repeated the value of the Special Expense area of the budget anticipated from SKDC in respect of the Uffington Road Sports Field. Councillor Bob Sandall reported that a meeting had been held with the Cricket Club Chairman and this club also wished to extend the term of their lease. It was considered that having a common policy in respect of all club lease durations made sense.
- i. *Cricket Club* - A site visit will be arranged with the organisers to discuss the terms of their lease.
- ii. *Young Daniels Football Club* - A site visit will be arranged with the organisers to discuss the terms of their lease.
- iii. *Stamford Brass Club House* - A site visit will be arranged with the organisers to discuss the terms of their lease.

Councillor Bob Sandall suggested that the Committee meetings could be held at various club locations to enable the committee members to familiarise themselves with all elements under their jurisdiction. This was supported by the Committee members.

- b. Any Correspondence received* The Town Clerk reported that a request had been received by an allotment holder as to whether an entry gate could be erected between the Town Council's Uffington Road South-Side Allotments and the Uffington Road Sports Field. It was the consensus that would not be practical as access to the Sports Field must always be controlled.

Proposal 2 – It was proposed by Councillor Susan Sandall, seconded by Councillor Max Sawyer and unanimously **RESOLVED** that the Council approves that no access gate is permitted from the Uffington Allotments site on to the Uffington Road Sports Field.

- c. Tree and Hedge work* – The Chairman suggested that once site visits have been conducted, an assessment of the area would be possible to gauge the potential hedge and tree work required. The committee was circulated with the existing Tree Report and it was noted. Should any councillor require any further information in respect of the report they should contact the Town Clerk.
- d. Budget* – It was considered that this would be deferred until further details have been received in respect of the Special Expense Area fund.

91. RECREATION GROUND (Agenda item 7)

- a. Rock Tennis Club* - A site visit will be arranged with the organisers to discuss the terms of their lease to use the grass tennis courts.
- b. Hard Tennis Club* – The Chairman reported that the Lawn Tennis Club had approached the Council to offer coaching sessions on the Recreation Ground. A meeting is being arranged to explore the potential of this suggestion. This was supported by the Committee. During discussion it was noted that there had been many issues of dog walkers using this area to exercise their animals which is not the purpose of this area. The Committee will be addressing this matter with the implementation of Protection Orders.
- c. Croquet Club* – Councillor Bob Sandall informed the Committee that the organisers of the club were using the area in front of the Pavilion for playing croquet. The request was for this area in front of the Pavilion to be available on the same frequency basis as the grass tennis courts. The other suggestion the organiser made was to use the grass tennis courts for croquet. It was noted that the organisers were willing to cut the grass of the Pavilion with their own mower and wanted to leave their equipment in one of the sheds and be provided with a key. It was considered that this matter would be discussed further with the organisers to achieve a resolution, as the committee supported all clubs.
- d. Skate Park* – It was noted that this facility continues to be well used.
- e. Outdoor Gym* – It was recognised that this gym is currently under the management and insurance of Frank Nubon. At the end of this year it will be reviewed as to whether this facility would come under the management of the Town Council.
- f. Play Equipment* – It was confirmed that there is a health and safety inspection regime in place and a contract is in place with Sovereign Compliance to inspect and conduct minor repairs. During their recent visit a number of areas had been identified for attention.
- g. Use of the Bandstand, Pavilion and Programmed Events* – All these areas are being well used and bring the Council an income. The programme of events which are not organised by the Town Council are being managed by the Events Committee. Similarly, bookings of the Pavilion are controlled by the Finance Committee.
- e. Tree and Hedge work* – The Chairman suggested that once site visits have been conducted, an assessment of the area would be possible to gauge the potential hedge and tree work required. The committee were circulated with the existing Tree Report. It was noted several memorial trees are to be planted on the Recreation Ground and the locations were noted. The Town Clerk reported that requests for memorial benches are also received for installation within this open space.

f. Budget – The current budget was noted.

92. MEADOWS (Agenda item 8)

- a. Millstream* – Councillor Ed Fancourt informed the Committee of the current restoration work by East Mercia River Trust to the Millstream. This was noted.
- b. Duck Feeders* – It was noted that two duck feeders are installed on the Meadows to assist wild fowl being fed with appropriate, healthy food rather than bread.
- c. Programmed Events* – All events using this area bring the Council an income. The programme of events which are not organised by the Town Council are being managed by the Events Committee. It was noted that the organisers wishing to set up a deck chair scheme on the Meadows would like to make an appeal against the decision to decline their proposal. The Committee support their revisiting this application.
The Chairman observed that the Town Council had resolved to support the Kiwani's Big Day Out in principle, subject to permissions being obtained.

Proposal 3 – It was proposed by Councillor Ed Fancourt, seconded by Bret Allibone and unanimously **RESOLVED** that the Town Council approves permission to the Kiwanis to use the Meadows for their Big Day Out event in July 2024.

- g. Tree and Hedge work* – The Chairman suggested that once site visits had been conducted, an assessment of the area would be possible to gauge the potential hedge and tree work required. The Committee was circulated with the existing Tree Report. It was noted several memorial trees are to be planted on the Meadow. The Town Clerk reported that requests for memorial benches are also received for installation within this open space.
- d. Budget* – The current budget was noted.

93. TERMS OF REFERENCE (Agenda item 9)

- i. Terms of Reference* – This was reviewed and would be presented to the Town Council for approval.
- ii. Memorial Benches & Trees* – This policy will need to be reviewed in due course.

94. STRATEGY PLAN 2023 – 2027 (Agenda item 10)

This matter would be considered at a future meeting once the Committee has had an opportunity to examine all the areas under its responsibility.

95. DATE OF NEXT MEETING: (Agenda item 11) – Tuesday 11 July at the Pavilion at 6.30pm. Committee members would assemble at 6pm for a tour of the site.

Chairman
(The meeting closed at 8.40pm)