

STAMFORD TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE AMENITIES SPORTS FIELDS AND OPEN SPACES MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY, 11 JULY 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

ALSO PRESENT Town Clerk – Patricia Stuart-Mogg
1 member of public

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

- A resident raised concern that recently when he had wished to use the hard tennis courts, he was unable to use them because they were being used for private coaching sessions. The Chairman thanked the resident for taking the time to attend the meeting to raise his concerns. Councillor Bob Sandall informed the resident that initial talks were being held with a tennis group to hold free coaching sessions on the hard tennis courts, but an agreement for such an arrangement was yet to be reached. This matter will be discussed by the Committee and steps will be taken to resolve the situation at the earliest opportunity.

2. APOLOGIES AND REASONS FOR ABSENCE (Agenda item 2)

Councillor Max Sawyer submitted his apologies, these were noted.

Proposal 1 – It was proposed by Councillor Susan Sandall, seconded by Councillor Ed Fancourt and unanimously **RESOLVED** that the reasons be accepted.

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

4. MINUTES (Agenda item 4)

The minutes of the Committee meeting of 13 June, which had been ratified at the Town Council meeting of 27 June 2023, were signed as a true record of the meeting.

5. EMPINGHAM SPORTS FIELD (Agenda item 5)

- Rugby Club* – The Chairman Councillor Bob Sandall advised that the Rugby Club had requested that an additional clause is added to the new lease, which enabled the Club to offer its facilities to other local clubs and groups. This was supported by the Committee and the lease could be directed to the Town Council's solicitors to prepare.
- Outdoor Bowls Club* – A site visit will be arranged with the organisers to discuss the terms of their lease.
- Bridge Club* – A site visit will be arranged with the organisers to discuss the terms of their lease.
- Gas Board* – A site visit will be arranged to familiarise the members with the location.
- Stamford Lions FC* - A site visit will be arranged with the organisers to discuss the terms of their lease.
- Tree and Hedge work* – It was reported that a large limb from one of the trees near the Rugby playing field had fallen and is a hazard. The Town Clerk had arranged for this urgent matter to be immediately resolved under Health & Safety delegated powers.

- vii. *Any Correspondence received in association with item 5* – None
- viii. *Budget considerations* – This was deferred to the next meeting.

6. **UFFINGTON ROAD SPORTS FIELD (Agenda item 6)**

- 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.
- iv. *Tree and Hedge work* – None.
- v. *Any Correspondence received in association with item 6* - None
- vi. *Budget* – This was deferred to the next meeting.

7. **RECREATION GROUND (Agenda item 7)**

- a. ***Rock Tennis Club*** – The Chairman Councillor Bob Sandall reported that a meeting had been convened with the Rock Tennis Club and they would be willing to support an event which would encourage tennis on Stamford Recreation Ground. It was suggested that this event could be promoted as a ‘Tennis Open Day’ and Stamford Tennis Club could also be invited to participate.
- b. ***Hard Tennis Courts*** – The matter raised by a resident earlier in the meeting was discussed. It was noted that no agreement was in place and the Committee was disturbed that on occasion residents were not able to use either of the two courts. It was considered that an urgent meeting is arranged with the R2R to resolve this situation. The Chairman informed the Committee that this tennis group, which is a member of the Lawn Tennis Association, was also interested in supporting the ‘Tennis Open Day’ which could operate on the Recreation Ground when the Diversity Festival event is being held. The Town Clerk confirmed that the Diversity Festival organisers are in support of this arrangement.

Proposal 1 – It was proposed by Councillor Susan Sandall, seconded by Councillor Andrew Croft and unanimously **RESOLVED** that the ‘Tennis Open Day’ event is progressed with the involvement of the Rock Tennis Club, Stamford Tennis Club and R2R during the Diversity Festival.

Proposal 2 – It was proposed by Councillor Susan Sandall, seconded by Councillor Habib Rahman and unanimously **RESOLVED** that a meeting is convened with R2R as soon as possible to agree a formal arrangement in principle, subject to specific dates and times being confirmed and any Tennis coaching sessions being advertised.

The Chairman Councillor Bob Sandall also reported that the matter of individuals using the hard tennis courts as a dog exercise area will be addressed. The Council’s solicitor is being contacted and SKDC is also putting in place Protection Orders for a number of areas on the Recreation Ground.

- c. ***Croquet Club*** – Councillor Bob Sandall informed the Committee that the organisers of the croquet club had agreed with Rock Tennis that they could utilise the grass tennis courts on one of the days reserved for the Rock Tennis Club. Following discussion, it was noted that the croquet club would still like to continue to use the Pavilion. It was considered that a charge of £5.00 per hour for one grass court was appropriate.

Proposal 3 – It was proposed by Councillor Bret Allibone, seconded by Councillor Andrew Croft and unanimously **RESOLVED** that the Croquet Club is charged £5.00 per hour for the grass tennis court and £10.00 per hour for the Pavilion.

- d. Skate Park* – It was noted that this facility continues to be well used.
- e. Outdoor Gym* – It was recognised that this gym facility had received funding from the UK Prosperity Fund for additional equipment which is to be installed shortly.
- f. Play Equipment* – It was confirmed that during the recent inspection some repairs needed to be undertaken. It was noted that Sovereign Compliance had submitted a quote for the repairs. The Town Clerk is examining the quote.
- g. Use of the Bandstand, Pavilion and Programmed Events* – It was reported that a request had been received whether the Council would consider upgrading the current standard 13amp power sockets to phase 3. During discussion, it was agreed that this would not be economical nor practical. Events organisers would need to provide their own generator should that size of power supply be required. It was observed that the external power socket at the Bandstand needs attention following vandalism. **Action:** Town Clerk
- h. Tree and Hedge work* – Discussion ensued in respect of the trees abutting the Pavilion as, during strong winds, they are hazardous as such fir trees have a tendency for branches to fail. It was suggested that advice is sought and a quote obtained to either pollard the trees or fell and replace.

Proposal 4 – It was proposed by Councillor Susan Sandall, seconded by Councillor Ed Fancourt and unanimously **RESOLVED** that advice is sought and a quote obtained to either pollard or fell and replace the trees abutting the Pavilion.

- i. Budget* – This was deferred to the next meeting.

8. MEADOWS (Agenda item 8)

- a. Millstream* – Councillor Ed Fancourt reported that with the Town Council grant, the East Mercia River Trust would be able to purchase the necessary weevils to tackle the invasive weed which is infecting the river network.
- b. Duck Feeders* – It was noted one of the units is closed due to part of the internal mechanism needing repair. **Action** – Town Clerk.
- c. Programmed Events* – The Town Clerk confirmed the Council's support of the Kiwani's Big Day Out, subject to full details of the construction of the exit platform at the Point end of the Meadows being received and approved.
- a. Tree and Hedge work* – None.
- d. Budget* – This was deferred to the next meeting.

9. OTHER ASSOCIATED MATTERS (Agenda item 9)

- i. Memorial Benches & Trees* – This policy will need to be reviewed in due course.
- ii. Amenities Operative* – The vacancy for the appointment of an additional Amenities Operative is being advertised. It was suggested that the Council consider embracing some 'Community Cleaner' elements to obtain a grant from SKDC for this aspect of service.

Proposal 5 – It was proposed by Councillor Susan Sandall, seconded by Councillor Habib Rahman and unanimously **RESOLVED** that the Town Council investigates the possibility of obtaining a Community Cleaner Grant from SKDC.

10. 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.

- 11. DATE OF NEXT MEETING: (Agenda item 11)** – Tuesday 8th August 2023 in the Town Hall at 6.30pm. Committee members would assemble at 6pm on the Meadows for an inspection of the site.

Chairman - (The meeting closed at 8.10pm)