

## STAMFORD TOWN COUNCIL

### **MINUTES OF THE AMENITIES SPORTS FIELDS AND OPEN SPACES MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY, 08 AUGUST 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 Susan Sandall  
Councillor Max Sawyer

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

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

- A resident expressed concern that the hard tennis courts were being used for private coaching sessions. Concern was expressed over the prolific weeds around the bandstand and the gym areas. The Chairman Councillor Bob Sandall thanked the resident for taking the time to attend the meeting to raise his concerns. It was noted that initial talks had been held in respect of holding free coaching sessions on the hard tennis courts, but an agreement had yet to be approved by the Committee. This matter is on the agenda and will be discussed by the Committee.

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

Councillor Rhea Rayside submitted her apologies, these were noted.

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

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

**234. MINUTES (Agenda item 4)**

The minutes of the Committee meeting of 11 July 2023, which had been ratified at the Town Council meeting of 25 July 2023, were signed as a true record of the meeting.

**235. EMPINGHAM SPORTS FIELD (Agenda item 5)**

- Rugby Club* – The Chairman Councillor Bob Sandall informed the meeting that the Council's solicitor is preparing the new lease. It was noted that the plans for the new club house is to be considered as part of the new document together with the new rental charge to be applied. It was recognised that details of the ground maintenance provided by South Kesteven District Council is still awaited. Costs initially provided are inaccurate. It was recognised that the lease under SKDC remains until the new lease is agreed. The Chairman confirmed that new the lease and the pricing will be carefully considered once all the details have been gathered. It is important that this new lease is expedited to enable the Rugby Club to access further funding sources.
- Stamford Lions & Blackstones Junior Football Club* – Councillor Bob Sandall informed the meeting that this football club has expressed a wish to reconfigure its itches to increase the size of the area for the under-eighteens. They would also like to install a fence around the playing area with a couple of dug outs to prevent dogs accessing the zone. It was noted that discussions are being held with the Rugby Club, so both parties are comfortable with the arrangements. Ground maintenance and pitch marking are other elements which are being examined. It is noted that the football club also cut the grass prior to matches to ensure the pitches are 'match ready'. It was

understood that the football club is issued with a licence to use the Empingham playing fields as part of the agreement with the Rugby Club.

**Proposal 2** – It was proposed by Councillor Susan Sandall, seconded by Councillor Habib Rahman and unanimously **RESOLVED** that the Council, in principle, supports the reconfiguration of the football pitches with a suitable fencing surround and two dug outs, subject to a maintenance agreement.

Councillor Bob Sandall informed the meeting that the football club would like to make improvements to the current changing rooms and clear out some of the items which are being stored within. It noted that the club would like to obtain a large container which could be used as a storage area. No planning permission would be required for the installation of a container on the playing field. Following discussion, it was noted that both the Skells Trust and the Council's grant scheme is available. It was also recognised that the current changing rooms will be demolished as part of the construction of the new Rugby club house.

**Proposal 3** – It was proposed by Councillor Ed Fancourt, seconded by Councillor Max Sawyer and unanimously **RESOLVED** that the Council approved the installation of a container on the Empingham Playing Fields as a storage area for the Stamford Lions & Blackstones Junior Football Club.

**Proposal 4** – It was proposed by Councillor Susan Sandall, seconded by Councillor Max Sawyer and unanimously **RESOLVED** that the Council approves the football club undertaking minor work to the current changing room with the support of its volunteers.

Most of the clubs have requested that a letter of support is issued by the landowner so each club may apply to the UK Prosperity Fund.

**Proposal 5** – It was proposed by Councillor Max Sawyer, seconded by Councillor Bret Allibone and unanimously **RESOLVED** that the Council issues letters of support to each club wishing to make application to the UK Prosperity Fund.

iii. *Bridge Club* – A site visit is still pending. The Town Clerk confirmed she had checked that this club - and the area it stands on - is excluded from the transfer to the Town Council. Councillor Bob Sandall wished to investigate this matter further.

iv. *Any Correspondence received in association with item 5*

- *Parking of camper vans* – Councillor Bob Sandall informed the meeting that details had been received of large camper vans parking overnight in the area used by the football club. Discussion ensued. It was agreed that the installation of gating needs to be investigated. Councillor Bob Sandall agreed that he would investigate this matter and report back to the committee.

**Proposal 6** – It was proposed by Councillor Ed Fancourt, seconded by Councillor Bret Allibone and unanimously **RESOLVED** that Councillor Bob Sandall investigates the installation of gates at the access point to the football parking area off Empingham Road.

v. *Budget considerations* – This was deferred to the next meeting.

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

- i. *Cricket Club* – It noted that a positive site meeting had been held.
- ii. *Young Daniels Football Club* – The Chairman Councillor Bob Sandall outlined the request which is being discussed with the Young Daniels football club to reconfigure the football pitches as at present they overlap the cricket area which causes some issues. A meeting is to be arranged with both the cricket club and football club to discuss this matter further. The Young Daniels have also received sponsorship from Howdens to renovate their kitchenette. This was supported by the Committee.

**Proposal 7** – It was proposed by Councillor Bret Allibone, seconded by Councillor Max Sawyer and unanimously **RESOLVED** that the Council supports the sponsorship from Howdens to renovate the Young Daniels Football Club kitchenette.

- iii. *Stamford Brass Club House* - The Town Clerk outlined the location of Stamford Brass Club House and the car parking area. It was also noted that this location is also utilised by SKDC as a service area. During discussion, it was noted that Stamford Brass wanted to erect some advertising boards. Councillor Ed Fancourt understood that this area was not part of the transfer to Stamford Town Council. Councillor Bob Sandall wished to investigate this matter further.
- 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.

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

- a. *Hard Tennis Courts* – The Chairman Councillor Bob Sandall reported a meeting had been held with R2R to try and resolve the usage of the hard tennis courts. What was requested was that the organisation wished to use the facility on Tuesdays (6pm – 7pm), Thursdays (7pm – 8pm) and Saturdays (9am to 3pm) with one hour earlier in October on the Tuesdays and Thursdays. At all times one court would remain vacant for residents' use. It appeared that this clearly did not seem to be the case and several members expressed concern that this free facility is being used for commercial purposes, which should not be permitted. It was agreed that this should be communicated to the organisation and that they have an opportunity to attend a meeting to appeal the decision. Town Clerk suggested that the alternative is to implement a booking system for one hour at a time and to put a lock on the gate with a digital code. It was also suggested that a notice should be displayed stating that the hard tennis courts are a public facility and not for commercial nor purposes other than tennis related activities.

**Proposal 8** – It was proposed by Councillor Bret Allibone, seconded by Councillor Max Sawyer and unanimously **RESOLVED** that the hard tennis courts are not for commercial use and that relations with R2R (Stamford Park) is terminated.

It was also reported that the Committee need to consider when budgeting for next year that the hard tennis courts will require de-mossing. This was noted.

**Tennis Open Day Bank Holiday 28 August** – This is being progressed and it is hoped that Rock Tennis and Stamford Tennis Club would be interested in participating. It was noted that there was considerable overgrowth and discarded metal work by the Rock Tennis Club area which required clearing. The Town Clerk stated that this area is in the process of being tidied with arrangements in place to have the metal work collected.

- b. *Skate Park* – It was noted that this facility continues to be well used but there is a gate which needs to be reinstated to ensure that the facility can be locked during adverse weather conditions.

**Proposal 9** – It was proposed by Councillor Susan Sandall, seconded by Councillor Bret Allibone and unanimously **RESOLVED** that the Council approves the gate is repaired and reinstated.

- c. Outdoor Gym* – It was noted that maintenance and weeding of the area needs to be addressed.
- d. Play Equipment* – It was noted that Sovereign Compliance had offered a reduction on their quote and outstanding repairs are progressing.
- e. Use of the Bandstand, Pavilion and Programmed Events* – It was requested the Council would consider upgrading the current standard 13amp power sockets to phase 3. It was considered that this may not be economical nor practical, but would be investigated and a quote obtained. It was also noted that the area around the Bandstand needs considerable weeding and cutting back. It was suggested that Stamford in Bloom could be approached for planting around the Bandstand. **Action:** Town Clerk
- f. Tree and Hedge work* – The Town Clerk is investigating with the contractor the schedule for hedge cutting and the pruning of trees. **Action:** Town Clerk
- g. Memorial Garden* – It was noted that the blocks had now been moved to the Recreation Ground for the memorial garden. During discussion it was considered that local schools and colleges may be interested in participating in a competition for a planting design.

**Proposal 10** – It was proposed by Councillor Bret Allibone, seconded by Councillor Max Sawyer and unanimously **RESOLVED** the Town Clerk contacts local schools and colleges to investigate whether they may be interested in participating in a competition to design a planting scheme for the memorial garden.

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

**238. MEADOWS (Agenda item 8)**

- a. Millstream* – It was noted that the East Mercia River Trust had purchased the necessary weevils to tackle the invasive weed which is infecting the river network. It was agreed that the Millstream and the bank of the Welland need attention.
- 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* – None.
- a. Tree and Hedge work* – None.
- d. Budget* – This was deferred to the next meeting.

**239. OTHER ASSOCIATED MATTERS (Agenda item 9)**

- i. The Pavilion* – The potential of using the Pavilion as a seasonal cafe.
- ii. Amenities Operative* – The vacancy had been filled.
- iii. LCC Drain on Bath Row* – The Town Clerk would contact LCC to address the drain on Bath Row at the vehicle bridge, which is currently collecting stagnating water.
- iv. Play Area adjoining Empingham playing fields* – Councillor Sandall suggested this area needs to be examined and re-purposed as a car park.

**240. DATE OF NEXT MEETING: (Agenda item 10)** – Tuesday 12 September 2023 at 6.30pm. It was hoped to possibly hold the meeting at either Empingham or Uffingham playing fields, but this would be confirmed.

Chairman  
(The meeting closed at 8.35pm)