



Minutes of the Property & Environment Committee of Costessey Town Council, held on Tuesday 25 May 2021 at 7:30pm via Zoom

Present: Cllrs J Amis (Chairman), M Bedford, G Blundell, L Glover, P O'Connor, D Burrill, D Bowles (Buildings Manager) N Bailey (Deputy Clerk). Observing: Cllrs J McCloskey, J Sealey and S Sizeland. P Williamson (Honorary Tree Warden) Two members of the public.

To elect a new Chairman for the Working Group

PE023/21: Resolved to elect Cllr John Amis uncontested.

To receive apologies for absence

PE024/21: No apologies. Note: Cllr J Newby informed us the following day he was unable to access the meeting via Zoom.

To receive declarations of interest

PE025/21: No declarations were made.

PE026/21: The Chairman agreed to bring forward an item as members of the public were wishing to speak about the proposal.

To finalise the brief for a sensory garden at The Denes Open Space, Fairway Queens hills

PE027/21: Cllr Blundell raised concerns from residents on the position of the Sensory Garden and offered an alternative position. Describing the area as a Jubilee Garden could open grant funding opportunities. A map outlined the suggested 21m x 21m area, but by changing the position to either side of an existing gravel pathway it would not be so close to neighbouring properties.

Pauline Williamson, Honorary Tree Warden gave suggestions of pollinators possibly fruit trees to support the nature all year round. A small focus group of Councillors and residents should be formed to formalise a Community Garden. Consultation should include the residents via a leaflet drop and contact made with the Queen's Hills Gardening Club for support.

Recommended to Full Council the area be called a Jubilee Garden re-positioned to alongside the gravel path. Action: Deputy Clerk

PE028/21: Members of the public left the meeting 20.01pm

To confirm and sign the minutes of the last meeting on 25 February 2021.

PE029/21: It was noted that the Minutes were approved with one small amendment at a previous Full Council meeting.

To receive an update on the previous minutes

PE030/21: Costessey Sports club new signage has been approved. The Army cadets sign has now been removed as they no longer hire the building. The Royal British Legion plaque could go in its place. The Rainbow bench at the Costessey Centre will be installed when the raised flower beds are ready. A new gate at Greenhills Wood had been installed with a kissing gate for pedestrian access. **ACTION: Deputy Clerk**

To discuss caretaking arrangements at The Costessey Centre

PE031/21: Football is due to return in September, and ideas were discussed around the club marshalling the use of the toilets/changing rooms so caretakers could be stood down. Other suggestions to be investigated are an outdoor toilet block for public use. It was felt public toilets were an important facility for park users and would reduce the extra cost and time for a caretaker to be on site (when no hirer coverage is needed).

Deputy Clerk to source prices and options for outdoor public toilets at The Costessey Centre site. Action: Deputy Clerk

To consider requirements for overnight security and gate locking

PE032/21: The item would be discussed later.

To consider proposal for an outdoor Christmas tree with lights at the Costessey Centre

PE033/21: Cllr Blundell asked for one real tree to be positioned outside each of the three halls and for members of the community to be allowed to decorate it. Health & Safety needed to be investigated together with costs. In addition, external lights could be put up at the Costessey Centre along the Longwater Lane fence line. The Council's Streetlight Contractor assists several other Town Council's with Christmas Lights, and could be contacted to get an idea of costs and options. A Feasibility Study was required. **Action: Deputy Clerk**

To receive information on Bee Corridors and Wildflower verges

PE033/21: Cllr L Glover introduced her ideas previously suggested in a local newsletter for introducing more Bee and wildlife friendly verges and land. Husenbeth Close Open Space was a good example and areas around the Roundwell Monument on Dereham Road. There was support for the initiative so a list of potential sites/areas should be developed. The Highway Engineer needed to be consulted in case there was an impact on visibility. The grass cutter will need clear instructions to leave selected areas. **Action: Deputy Clerk**

To receive correspondence regarding Oval road Roundabout Bulb Planting

PE034/21: After discussion it was decided that Bulb planting on the Oval Road Roundabout would not be successful due to the hard land. A more suitable idea would be to ask Norwich City Council for wildflowers instead. **Action: Deputy Clerk**

To receive an update on planned works to fencing at Breckland Park

PE035/21: A programme of replacement fencing had taken place over the past few years. The stretch behind dwellings on Breckland Road was intertwined with a thick hedgerow varying in height. The work to remove it would take approx. a week and could start after the nesting season. A raised stretch of ball catching net above the fence line will be situated behind the permanent football goal being installed in June 2021. The hedgerow was far deeper than in other places and residents needed to be advised. The original fence line would be difficult to pick out. Some of the residents had cut back the hedgerow and replaced it with their own fencing but within their boundary. The office will write to all households affected. **ACTION: Deputy Clerk**

To receive the Zurich, Play Equipment inspections

PE036/21: The regular six-monthly Zurich checks highlighted a couple of pieces of equipment requiring attention, one being the nest swing on Longwater Grounds. This has been temporarily removed awaiting further quotes for the part. **ACTION: Deputy Clerk**

PE037/21: Work has commenced this week on the long-awaited play equipment at Breckland Park which is funded in the main by £54,216 of Section 106 funds from Bennett Homes and £7,022 of Community Infrastructure Levy, topped up by Town Council funds.

To confirm the date of the next Property & Environment Working Group

PE038/21: To confirm the next Property & Environment Working group is scheduled for 22nd June 2021 at 7.30pm via zoom

PE039/21: RESOLVED to exclude the press and public from the meeting under the Public Bodies (Admissions to Meetings) Act 1960 on the grounds that it is not in the public interest to disclose discussion on the items below due to the discussions relating to contracts & security.

PE040/21: All participants left except Working Group Members.

THE FOLLOWING WERE DISCUSSED IN CONFIDENCE

To consider requirements for overnight security and gate locking

PE041/21: Agreed to go out and source quotes from other Companies. **Action: Deputy Clerk.**

PE042/21: The meeting finished at 21:02pm

Chairman:

Date: