

Lowestoft Town Council
Meeting of the Parks and Open Spaces Sub-Committee
First Floor, Hamilton House, Battery Green Road, Lowestoft, Suffolk, NR32 1DE
14:30 on 18 February 2020

MINUTES

Present: Cllrs Sue Barnard, Neil Coleby (Chair), Peter Lang and Alice Taylor

In attendance: Lauren Elliott (Committee Clerk)

Also in attendance: Mark Ross (Assistant Manager Grounds – East Suffolk Norse) and Peter Wilson-Sutter (Assistant Manager Parks – East Suffolk Norse)

Public: There were no members of the public in attendance

62. Welcome

The fire evacuation procedure and public right to report were explained and the meeting was welcomed.

63. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Cllrs Bob Breakspear, Graham Parker and John Pitts. Cllr Taylor proposed acceptance of the apologies; seconded by Cllr Coleby; all in favour.

64. Declarations of Interests and dispensations

Cllr Coleby declared a local non-pecuniary interest in matters relating to Lowestoft in Bloom. Cllr Barnard declared a local non-pecuniary interest in matters relating to the Gainsborough Drive Pond.

65. Public Forum

There were no members of the public in attendance. SB arrived 14:33.

66. Accuracy of the minutes

28 January 2020 – Accepted as accurate. Proposed by Cllr Taylor; seconded by Cllr Lang; all in favour.

67. Normanston Park:

67.1 A request for the development of a cycling pump track – The skate park in Normanston Park is popularly used by BMX bikes. The Sub-Committee welcomed this idea but it could be expensive to do. Clarkes Lane was suggested as another potential location. External funding may be available if the Council can demonstrate a demand for this type of facility. East Suffolk Norse think this would be well used but may require some consultation with local residents. The request indicates that British Cycling may be able to offer funding, and it was agreed that they should be invited to visit both Normanston Park and Clarkes Lane to offer some advice.

67.2 A request for use of the car park as a coach drop off and collection point for students in June, July and August – The arrangements are the same as last year and this did not seem to cause any issues. Cllr Taylor proposed a recommendation to the Assets, Inclusion and Development (AID) Committee to approve the request for the use of the Normanston Park car park as a coach collection and drop off point for students in June, July and August; seconded by Cllr Lang; all in favour.

67.3 A proposal for the provision of adult gym equipment – The AID Committee has requested that this Sub-Committee puts together a full proposal for consideration. It was suggested that two or three companies who provide this equipment could be invited to complete a site visit and put a proposal forward. East Suffolk Norse do not know about the equipment being installed by East Suffolk Council along the promenade, but think that equipment in Normanston Park would be well used.

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Generally, other areas have installed four – six pieces of equipment, but the suppliers should be able to make a recommendation on the basis of a site visit. East Suffolk Council may be able to offer some advice also.

68. The use of mulch on land owned by the Town Council

Cllrs Barnard and Coleby have completed some work on this and will be seeking some advice on costings from East Suffolk Norse to bring back to the next meeting. There has been a request from a member of the public to plant a memorial rose in Sparrows Nest. The Town Council's Open Spaces Strategy stipulates that the only memorial planting in the Town Council's parks and open spaces will be completed by the Town Council, to ensure cohesion and consistency, and that plants will be well maintained. Furthermore, it was commented that the Sparrows Nest winter garden is being developed, therefore the Sub-Committee would not like to grant permission for memorial planting for it to then have to be removed again shortly.

69. The provision of bicycle racks in the Town Council's parks

The price varies depending on the design. It was suggested that a custom design could be considered for the Council's heritage parks, with matching benches. It was suggested that each time a play area is improved, bicycle racks should be added too. It was agreed that the current provision of bicycle racks on Lowestoft Town Council land needed to be checked. Cllrs Lang and Taylor agreed they would visit assets South of the bridge and Cllrs Barnard and Coleby will visit assets North of the bridge. This will be carried forward to the next agenda for consideration to be given as to where more bicycle racks are required and the anticipated cost of this.

70. Signage to convey positive messages about respecting the Town Council's parks and open spaces

This Sub-Committee would like to see welcome signs at the Town Council's parks and open spaces, conveying a positive message wishing users an enjoyable visit and requesting that they treat the area with respect and be respectful of other visitors.

71. The proposal to install a lockable bollard at the entrance to Sparrows Nest adjacent the Maritime Museum, and consideration of making a recommendation to the Assets, Inclusion and Development Committee as to whether to progress this

East Suffolk Norse advised that lockable bollards have been tried in other areas previously but have not been particularly successful, with keys typically going missing or the bollards not being locked again after use. One of the key issues would be delivery drivers who frequently require access to the park. The placement of any bollards would need to be considered to ensure vans are not blocking the road whilst waiting to be let in and could phone ahead to ensure somebody is ready for their arrival. Feedback had been sought from stakeholders and this was relayed to the Sub-Committee. It was previously suggested that the gates at the main entrance could be closed to prevent unauthorised access, however East Suffolk Norse advised against this as it makes the park look less inviting. Cllr Taylor proposed a recommendation to the AID Committee to approve the installation of a permanent bollard at the Maritime Museum entrance of Sparrows Nest, and a lockable bollard at the gated entrance of Sparrows Nest; seconded by Cllr Barnard; all in favour.

72. Date of the next meeting

17 March 2020 14:30

73. Items for the next Agenda and Close

It was requested that consideration be given to periodically inviting the Friends Groups and Lowestoft in Bloom to meetings of this Sub-Committee to receive an update on their

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activities. It was requested that consideration be given to a site visit to Harrod Horticulture. It was requested that provision be included on the next agenda for a discussion about how the Council may make improvements to the Normanston Park changing rooms. East Suffolk Norse advised there is less of a demand for showers, compared with a changing area containing lockers. There seems to have been a decline in adult football matches at the park, but youth football has seen an increase. The advice of an architect would be required should the Council wish to progress this.

74. Resolution to close the meeting to the public

There were no confidential matters for consideration.

The Chair closed the meeting 15:42.

Signed:
17 March 2020