

**Environment and Recreation Committee Meeting held at the John Clements Sports & Community Centre on Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2022 at 7.30pm**

**Present:** Cllr Colin Argent (chair), Cllr Jim Bundy, Cllr M Kane, Cllr N Fothergill, Cllr R Green, Cllr R Walker, Cllr P Bexton, and Cllr C Mayger

**In Attendance:** The clerk, Mr Simon Crosier

**2022/38 To receive apologies and approval for absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr South and Cllr Gilbert and were noted and approved.

**2022/39 Chair's Remarks**

None.

**2022/40 Public Participation**

40.1 Derek Anstiss – To speak on issues concerning the allotments and orchard at Bury Lane.

Allotments: - Derek highlighted the issue of rubbish on site and said that he will speak to other allotment holders about how to combat this issue. Cllr Argent confirmed that a £100.00 deposit for new plot holders will be introduced to help address this. Cllr Argent also suggested that an Allotment Association be formed to monitor such issues and Derek will approach plot holders in the New Year to get their thoughts. **Action:** - The clerk is to forward a copy of the map of the allotment plots to Derek and to check plots in March, prior to the annual fee letter, to gauge the condition of each plot and highlight the need to tidy if necessary.

Orchard: - Derek confirmed that the orchard needs to be tidied up and the trees pruned. **Action:** - The clerk will seek quotes from Rob Cooper and Duncan Evans for tree pruning in the orchard. Cllr Argent suggested two options concerning the litter problem in the orchard: -

- We could ask James Howe to extend his litter picking to include the orchard and the Parish Council pay accordingly.
- We could put together a working party next year to carry out orchard related tasks.

This will be discussed further in the New Year.

**2022/41 To consider a request to allow a small greenhouse on an allotment plot**

In line with the Council's current stance on structures not being allowed on allotment plots, Council **resolved** to turn down this request. **Action:** - The clerk will contact the plot holder and relay the Council's decision.

**2022/42 To provide an update on dog bins**

The clerk confirmed that North Herts Council had agreed to install posts at the two locations previously specified in readiness for the Parish Council to attach bins to these. North Herts Council have requested a map confirming the locations. **Action:** - The clerk to forward a map to North Herts Council confirming the locations of the two dog bins.

**2022/43 To put together a tender for the maintenance of Parish assets**

Cllr Argent is currently drawing up a package of work that will be put out to tender.

**2022/44 To consider the mini rugby annual fee**

The clerk confirmed that the annual fee is £150.00. With a reduction in the numbers of children playing rugby, coupled with the financial difficulties of the club, Council recommended that the annual fee be waived for the next two years. **Action:** - The clerk, once the decision has been ratified by full Council, will confirm this to Jim Park.

**2022/45 To consider the repair of three noticeboards in Codicote East**

Cllr Argent confirmed that these noticeboards are classed as priority one and two on the Parish asset list for refurbishment.

**2022/46 To discuss the annual inspection and risk assessment of play areas**

The clerk confirmed that the report from the inspector has not yet been received. This will be added as an agenda item for discussion at the January 2023 environment and recreation committee meeting in anticipation of the report being received.

**2022/47 To provide an update on the work installing the height barrier at the entrance to the John Clements Sports and Social Club**

Cllr Argent has sourced a combination padlock and hopes to be in possession of the vinyl strips detailing the emergency contact number that are to be attached to the signage very shortly. **Action:** - The clerk will confirm the padlock number to the Salvation Army, James Howe, East of England Ambulance Service and Herts Fire and Rescue.

**2022/48 To provide an update on the car park lighting to be installed at the John Clements Sports and Social Club**

The clerk confirmed that no decision had yet been forthcoming on granting permission for the installation of the car park lighting. Cllr Bundy will speak to District Cllr Ian Moody to see if he can help speed up the application.

**2022/49 To discuss observations made around car parking and road congestion following the firework event at the John Clements Sports and Community Centre**

To alleviate the problems experienced at this year's firework display, Council recommended that for next year: -

- Attendees are encouraged to walk to the event.
- It will be disabled parking only at the John Clements Sports and Community Centre car park.
- The Parish Council will ask St Giles Church if their car park can be used to help with parking.
- Consideration is given to charging a fee for commercial vans to use the car park.

This will be an agenda item for discussion at the June 2023 environment and recreation committee meeting. The committee also raised the idea of engaging charities to provide voluntary staff for car park duties and in return they can raise money via donation buckets.

**Action:** - The clerk will contact James Howe to see if he is happy to continue organising the event. The clerk will also ensure that the Parish Council insurance covers the firework display.

**2022/50 To discuss the response from North Herts Council to the s106 monies request made by Codicote Parish Council in respect of the Wyevale development**

Cllr Kane highlighted the fact that the Parish Council had never been invited to join North Herts Council and Taylor Wimpey in a discussion over additional s106 monies in respect of the Wyevale development. The offer of additional monies for playground enhancement at the sports field was never requested by the Parish Council. **Action:** - The clerk will arrange a Zoom meeting between North Herts Council, Taylor Wimpey, and the Parish Council to seek clarification on how and why the additional s106 monies have been allocated the way they have. Cllr Argent enquired as to the ownership of the fence between the sports field and the Wyevale site. **Action:** - Cllr Bundy and Cllr Argent will make enquiries into the ownership of the fence.

**2022/51 To discuss the Christmas lights, switch on event**

The switch on of the Christmas lights is scheduled for Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> December at 4pm. **Action:** - The clerk will contact James Howe to confirm that the necessary arrangements are in place for the switch on event.

The committee also recommended that William Eames be offered the chance to switch on the Christmas lights. **Action:** - Cllr Bundy will speak to William's mother and offer the opportunity for William to switch the lights on.

**2022/52 Matters for consideration at future meetings**

The clerk had been contacted by Rae French and Mark Knapper about the state of the gravel/grass area behind the John Clements building and the pavilion. It is becoming difficult to manoeuvre bins, move the large lawn mower and for contractor who unload their vans in that area for functions. **Action:** - Cllr Bundy will speak to Rae about the current issues.

**Meeting closed at 21.00pm**