



**CITY OF ELY COUNCIL
RECREATION & CEMETERY COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF A MEETING HELD
AT 7.00 PM ON TUESDAY 4TH FEBRUARY 2014**

PRESENT:

Cllr E Every Cllr N Clarke Cllr C Phillips
Cllr R Hobbs Cllr J Pearson

4 members of the public

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from, the Mayor, Cllr E Griffin-Singh.

2. REQUEST INTENTION OF THOSE IN ATTENDANCE WHO WISH TO SPEAK ON AN AGENDA ITEM *as per Standing Order 83 b*

Cllr Clarke in his capacity as Chairman requested intentions to speak on items listed on the agenda. The 4 members of the public requested an intention to speak on item 7.5. Members agreed to discuss this before agenda item 3, to benefit the members of the public.

3. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING & MATTERS ARISING

Minutes of the meeting held on the 14th October 2013 were agreed and signed as a true record. Pages RC 045 & 046 refer.

Page 046 -Item 6. The Assistant Clerk advised members that although she had been informed by the Recreation and Cemetery Supervisor that it was not necessary to replace the broken shredder and that it was sufficient to hire one when required, it had become known that 3 years of green waste needed to be disposed of. Therefore, it had been necessary to employ a local company to carry this work out at a cost of £600.00. Members were unhappy to receive this information and felt the Assistant Clerk had been misinformed. They stressed that this situation should not have occurred and should not arise again.

4. BUDGET UPDATE

Members noted the budget update dated 27th January 2014. There were no significant variances. The Assistant Clerk advised that it had been necessary to carry out urgent work to a tree within the Cemetery at a cost of £800.00. She also advised that further trees required attention, notably 2 Beech trees that are showing a fungal infection. ECDC's Tree officer had insisted that a Picus Tomograph Assessment be carried out on these trees. Members agreed unanimously to the quotation of £466.00 received for this work.

5. GENERAL

5.1 TO CONSIDER REQUEST FROM 1ST ELY SCOUT GROUP TO ERECT A POLE AND GAS STORE AND BICYCLE RACKS, ADJACENT TO THE SCOUT HALL, ST JOHNS ROAD PLAY AREA, ELY

Members noted the request to erect a pole and gas store and bicycle racks adjacent to the Scout Hall, St John's Road, Ely, to which they unanimously agreed in principal to this request, subject to planning permission being granted.

COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN
31ST March 2014

6. CEMETERY

6.1 SEASONAL STAFF

Members unanimously agreed to appoint 2 seasonal staff for the period 1st April to 31st October 2014. One position will be offered to a previous member of staff and the other will be advertised at the Job Centre and in the Council's own notice boards. It was felt not necessary to advertise within the local paper at this stage.

6.2 REVIEW OF CEMETERY FEES

Members unanimously agreed to increase the fees for the Cemetery by 2.7%. This increase will take effect from the 1st April 2014.

7. RECREATION

7.1 WILLOW WALK – OFFER OF APPLE TREES

An offer of apple trees for planting at Willow Walk play area, had been received by the Mayor from a parishioner. Members felt that this area was not suitable for apple trees and therefore requested the offer kindly be declined.

7.2 FOOTBALL CLUB FLOODLIGHTS

Cllr Clarke explained that support for a Section 106 application for funding had been requested from Ely City Football Club for the purchase of floodlights at their Downham Road site. This had originally been discussed at the Section 106 meeting and had been referred to the Recreation and Cemetery committee for consideration. Members agreed to defer a decision until there is clear sight of where the football pitch will be located in relation to the new leisure centre.

7.3 TO CONSIDER FITNESS EQUIPMENT

The Assistant Clerk showed members a brochure on fitness equipment that could be placed on the outer areas of the City. Members were in favour of such a project and agreed to move this forward. Cllr Hobbs advised that funding is available for this type of project from Sport England. Members agreed to apply for funding of £100,000 from Sport England and £20,000 from Section 106. He agreed to set up a meeting between the representative from Sport England, ECDC's Sport Development officer, and members of the Recreation and Cemetery Committee. It was agreed there would be a planned programme of where the equipment would be sited, starting with the area behind Bedford Close, Ely.

7.4 TO CONSIDER ZIP WIRE FOR ST JOHNS ROAD, ELY

Members agreed to upgrade the balancing equipment at the rear of the play area with a Zip Wire. An application for Section 106 funding will be made for this.

Members also agreed a Section 106 application should be made to upgrade the wooden fencing that surrounds the High Barns play area.

The following agenda item was discussed after item 2

7.5 TO DISCUSS LETTER FROM ALLOTMENT HOLDER

Members noted the letter received regarding the new parking restrictions at High Barns Recreation Field. This restriction prevented allotment holders from parking on the recreation area, when visiting their allotments. A risk assessment had been carried out, the result of which had identified the need to restrict vehicle access. Against the advice of the Assistant Clerk, members agreed that the allotment holders should be allowed to park on the site. However the area, which they drive on to, should be cordoned off from the rest of the Recreation Field. Members agreed that a site meeting should be arranged to look at the area and review the risk assessment. They also agreed the parking restriction should be lifted immediately. The Assistant Clerk advised permission will need to be sought from the Church Commissioners to erect a fence or border. Members agreed that this matter will be discussed at Full Council and that it be requested that delegated authority be given to the Recreation and Cemetery Committee to implement appropriate changes.

The 4 members of the public then left the meeting.

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COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN
31st March 2014

8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The Assistant Clerk reported that a pupil from St Mary's School had approached the Mayor regarding the provision of play equipment on Stour Green. Members agreed as this land belongs to ECDC, the request should be referred to them.

Cllr Clarke advised the skate park at St Johns Road would be finished shortly following a snagging meeting with the supplier.

9. DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

Monday, 31st March 2014 at 6.30pm

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COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN
31st March 2014