

BRAUNTON PARISH COUNCIL



Minutes of the Meeting of the Parks and Gardens Committee held in the Council Chamber at 2.00 pm on Monday 14 June 2023

Present Cllrs: D Spear, M Shapland, V Cann, R Shapland, L Childs, G Bell

Also in Attendance Tracey Lovell (Parish Clerk), Angela Corner (Senior Council Officer)

- PG/1/2023/24 **Elect Chair** Cllr D Spear was nominated.
RESOLVED: That Cllr D Spear be elected Chair of the Parks and Gardens Committee for the Municipal Year 2023/24.
(NC)
- PG/2/2023/24 **Apologies** Cllr M Cann
- PG/3/2023/24 **Declarations of Interest** None
- PG/4/2023/24 **Minutes** The committee noted that the Minutes of the Parks and Gardens Committee meeting held on 13 February 2023 had previously been approved and ratified by full Council. The Minutes were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.
(4:2abs)
- PG/5/2022/23 **Play Parks** RESOLVED: To recommend to full Council to propose the following:
- a) Chaloners Play Park**
- i) Provide quote for a new outward opening gate. Work to be carried out by contractor when carrying out a larger project such as at the Recreation Ground.
 - ii) Provide quote for additional fencing by the grounds access gate.
 - iii) Consider options to prevent children climbing over railings onto river bank. Check liability with

- insurers.
- iv) Consider replacement of the rolling log which was removed.

b) Mowstead Play Park

The clerk proposed a new Multi Climbing frame from Proludic as suggested by the community which would be for slightly older children and would replace the equipment which has already been removed. The Sputnik roundabout is also in need of replacement and a quote was received for a Proludic Speed Gyro.

Total works including roundabout removal, install and surfacing -
£29,399.55 Ex Vat

Total works if roundabout and associated works is excluded -
£21,061.07 Ex Vat

RESOLVED: To recommend to full Council:

- i) to submit an Expression of Interest for Section 106 funding.
- ii) To suggest additional fundraising to support the project.
- iii) To consider funding replacement of the Sputnik as a stand-alone project if S106 funding is not available.
- iv) To consider temporary patching on the safety surfacing in the interim.

(NC)

c) Recreation Ground

The clerk updated the new committee members on the plans for the recreation ground using the allocated S106 funding of £66,000. The next stage is to undertake a consultation in early Autumn. This will be with hirers of the recreation ground on the position of equipment, and with Braunton Academy and youth club on the type of equipment. The council has received a quote for £2500 to reinstate the pathways and remove the circular bed. A tree could be planted in place of the circular bed. The funding is to be spent by March 2024. The project will be brought back to the

next meeting after the consultation.

PG/6/2023/24 **Grass Cutting**

a) No Mow May

There was a lot of public support for no Mow May and some members of the community would like to see areas left for wildlife beyond May.

A small number of residents wanted verges cut to improve visibility from their property to the Highway. Exits from properties are not on the Devon County Council visibility splays maps.

A complaint was made regarding keeping the verges along Exeter Road cut but there was also support to leave them to grow.

The Clerk suggested the Council could consider cuts to visibility splays in mid-April which may not need further cutting in May. If necessary, cuts to visibility splays could still be made in May.

The committee discussed mapping out areas which need to be cut for visibility splays; public areas; areas which will be cut up to 1m to tidy up edges. Also mapping out areas which do not have to be cut in June and signage where grass is being left to grow. The Clerk to obtain expert advice.

The Grounds team support No Mow May but reported that they inhaled a lot of dust and pollen cutting the longer grass in the dry weather and also cuttings sometimes spread over parked vehicles.

Bring back plans to a future meeting.

b) Parish Land

Cllr Childs received support to coordinate a volunteer group to get Braunton blooming. She has been approached by willing volunteers and they would like to encourage people and businesses to keep their areas looking nice.

It was suggested that setting up as a more formal group may attract funding and they would need to consider insurance and appropriate training for working on the Highway. Also encourage businesses to get involved.

There have been requests from parishioners for a Community Orchard to be considered.

PG/7/2023/24 **Action Plan**

Attached as appendix A.

A committee member asked for thanks to be passed on to the Parish gardeners and Steve Wightman who does the hanging baskets.

The meeting closed at 3.34 pm

..... The Chairman