

RECREATIONAL FACILITIES WORKING GROUP MEETING - 2 DECEMBER 2024

At the remote meeting of the Recreational Facilities Working Group held by video conference on 2 December 2024, the following Councillors were present:-

Councillors (Cllrs.) Present: J Leggett (Chair)

M A Booth	-	D Coleman
S D Booth	-	W F Couzens
M G Callam	-	J H Mallen

Officers: G Ranaweera (Town Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer)

24/078. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from.

24/079. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD 4 NOVEMBER 2024

Minutes of the meeting held 4 November 2024 were agreed without amendment.

24/080. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

There were no matters arising.

24/081. COMMEMORATION TREES

Cllr. D Coleman confirmed whips had been planted at Blue Boar Lane Park on the boundary adjacent Lidl. Additional whips, more mature than expected, were added to the order free of charge as the nursery had ceased trading. This enabled a double row to be planted

With regard to commemorative trees the Town Clerk reported:

- three sites had been surveyed and marked out for planting;
- trees had been purchased, delivered and heeled in;
- work to remove turf, scatter poppy/wild seeds and plant trees will take place next week;
- spring, summer or autumn bulbs can be planted at a later date if desired.

There was discussion on underplanting with blue, red and white flowering bulbs, organising a community planting event, purchase of commemorative plaques and an opening ceremony event.

It was agreed Councillors bring forward their ideas on materials and design for memorial plaques to the next meeting of the RFWG meeting.

24/081. COMMEMORATION TREES (CONTINUED)

Cllr. D Coleman reminded Councillors that County Councillor J M Ward had agreed to financially contribute, from his Councillor Highways Grant, towards the purchase of trees for planting on highway land in Sprowston.

Whilst she had several ideas on suitable locations for planting, she asked members of the RFWG to email their thoughts on appropriate areas in Sprowston to her or the Town Clerk.

Cllr. J Leggett clarified with the Town Clerk that there were sufficient funds available for this project in the budget, to which he assured her there was.

24/082. SUMMER FETE 2025

Cllr. J Leggett highlighted two items she felt should now be given priority these being, booking of the bands and sourcing an alternative PA System provider.

Cllr. J H Mallen suggested inviting the Scouts to assist with the fete on a voluntary basis.

The Town Clerk asked Councillors for their views on provision of a 40-foot HGV trailer from East Coast Truckers to stage the bands and MC. A donation of £500.00 would be required.

Following discussion, it was agreed such a large vehicle would overwhelm the performance area. Councillors preferred the more intimate arrangement currently in place.

24/083. VIKING CENTRE UPDATE

Cllr. W F Couzens advised he had visited the Viking Centre on Friday 29 November 2024 and reported:

- work is ongoing;
- scaffolding is still in-situ to the rear of the building;
- the front of the property appears almost complete;
- tarmac is in the process of being laid.

The Town Clerk stated contractors had submitted a request to extend completion of the project which was declined. The completion date remains middle of January 2025, which allows two weeks for Council to commission the building prior to opening on 1 February 2025.

Responding to questions from Cllr. J Leggett the Town Clerk updated Councillors as follows:

- The ground floor walls had been boarded and plastering is currently taking place.

24/083. VIKING CENTRE UPDATE (CONTINUED)

- The RFWG had an on-site meeting on 16 December 2024 where he hoped Councillors would have an opportunity to view samples and choose wall colours. He would pursue this with the contractor.
- He had not as yet received the signed agreement from Claire Butcher (Circinus organisation).
- Maximum opening times will be offered. Whilst Claire will be at liberty to open as she feels appropriate within those times, he recommended specifying minimum opening hours. He would prepare a draft document for consideration by the RFWG prior to the café going live.
- He suggested a soft weekday opening with an official launch over a weekend with press and public invited. The event could include Sprowston Heritage Exhibition, Neighbourhood Plan update etc.

Concern was expressed with regard to the community shop. If only open a few days of the week, it could prevent the Council from maximising its return from the venture.

A short lease and breakout clause was discussed with the latter being the preferred option.

With regard to a question about the proceeds from the community shop the Town Clerk explained Circinus organisation is a community enterprise and proceeds will cover the costs, including wages, for participating members and be reinvested into the business.

Referring to the community fridge the Town Clerk confirmed this would be managed by Claire in the café.

24/084. WHITE HOUSE FARM DEVELOPMENT

Cllr. W F Couzens reported Council's contact with developers, Matthew Wright, had left the company.

Cllr. D Coleman advised a resident had contacted her with regard to a Dog waste bin located next to a park bench, so close to the neighbouring flats residents could smell it.

She again expressed concern about land allocated for the skate park as it was underwater again.

Cllr. M A Booth referred to his three weekly meetings with BDC officer Chris Raine, who is aware of the water logging.

The formation of a residents' association was discussed. Cllr. M A Booth said he had raised this with residents on many occasions however, no one was

24/084. WHITE HOUSE FARM DEVELOPMENT (CONTINUED)

willing to organise one. He felt the residents wanted Council to setup a residents' association on their behalf. He did not feel it was appropriate for Council to be involved.

He would pursue relocation of the dog bin.

24/085. BROADLAND DISTRICT COUNCIL - BEESTON PARK

Cllr. J Leggett speculated on how long Councillors had been asking for a meeting with developers of Beeston Park.

Cllr. D Coleman commented on pile driving and other investigative ground works taking place on land adjacent the park and ride.

Cllr. M A Booth to enquire with BDC officers Chris Raine and Ben Burgess.

The Town Clerk confirmed there had been no further contact from Sprowston FC.

24/086. VE DAY- 80 and VJ DAY

The Town Clerk reported all major elements to host the VE DAY-80 and VJ Day event were in place.

He was awaiting further details on who would like to recite a reading. He also welcomed Councillors suggestions on the structure of the event.

Cllr. J H Mallen noted the change of venue would ease pressure on parking and subsequent pedestrian safety as there was better access at this location.

24/087. AOB

Cllr. J H Mallen requested a previous agenda item, to provide a refreshment facility on Sprowston Recreation Ground, be reinstated.

The Town Clerk explained he would be unable to progress with this item until a least the new financial year due to other priority commitments.

Cllr. M A Booth reported the extension to the fence on land at Salhouse Road had successfully prevented motorcyclists accessing this private land.

Date of next meeting: Tuesday 28 January 2025 commencing **3.30pm**