

HELLEDON PARISH COUNCIL

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Minutes of the meeting of the Playing Fields, Amenities & Allotments Committee held on Tuesday 21 February 2017 at 7.pm in Diamond Jubilee Lodge, Hellesdon

PRESENT Mr D King - Chairman

Mrs D Attenborough Mr D Jones-Blackett

Mrs U Franklin Mr J Knowles

IN ATTENDANCE: Mr G Britton Mr G Everett Mr R Grady

Mrs S Gurney Mrs S Prutton Mr R Sear

Mrs M Anderson-Dungar – Locum Clerk

The Chairman opened the meeting with notification of an item of urgent business related to the management and future provision of footway lighting in the parish; he welcomed Councillors not members of this Committee who had attended for this item.

1. **Apologies and Acceptance for Absence**

Apologies were received and accepted from Mr. D Ghimire.

2. **Declarations of Interest and Dispensations**

There were no declarations of interest and the Clerk had no dispensations to report.

3. **Minutes of the Meeting held on 21 November 2016**

It was proposed, agreed and **RESOLVED** to accept these as a true record, signed accordingly by the Chairman.

4. **Public Participation**

No member of the public was present.

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Approved.....

Date.....

5. General Matters

5.1 Matter of Urgent Business

The Chairman asked Mrs Gurney to lead on this item. She referred to the communication from Broadland District Council that it would assume responsibility for footway lighting on new developments in the parish, following the decision of Norfolk County Council not to adopt same. The Parish Council could assume responsibility and charge through the precept; if it did not wish to do so, then Broadland District Council would meet the costs which would be re-charged to residents through the Council Tax by way of a special expense, as for the existing lighting. This recommendation of the Environmental Excellence Panel had been rejected by the Cabinet on 14 February 2017 and the recommendation from that meeting to the Full Council on 23 February 2017 was that Broadland District Council should cease responsibility for administration of footway lighting from April 2018, passing responsibility for both new and existing lighting to parish councils from that date. The Cabinet report, details of lighting stock and costs were tabled.

The ensuing detailed discussion concluded that the Council was being asked to take a decision that would have far reaching social and financial implications for residents without the opportunity for any consultation. It was proposed by the Chairman, seconded by Mr Knowles and agreed to **RECOMMEND** to the Full Council meeting on 7 March 2017 that:

Hellesdon Parish Council does not adopt footway lighting until the full financial implications have been explained and the Council has had the opportunity to consult with residents.

Most Councillors not members of this Committee left the meeting at this point.

5.2 Update on Mountfield Park

The Chairman reported that the Transfer of Ownership documents were in the Council office for planned signing at the Full Council meeting on 7 March and subsequent return to Solicitors. In the meantime there were some tree issues to be resolved.

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Approved.....

Date.....

5.3 Update on Children’s Play Area Equipment

The Chairman reported that with the exception of one item the equipment had been installed satisfactorily. The safety surface was good, but there were problems with the grass, mainly caused by laying the turf in frosty weather. The current condition was unacceptable, photographs had been taken and sent to the contractor, and no payment would be made or documents signed until the situation had been resolved. Fencing the affected area would be the sensible option, and the contractor would be asked if they had Herras fencing that could be loaned to the Council.

Once problems were resolved, the Council staff would be asked to prepare a media release for both sites.

5.4 Use of Field for Sporting Activity

The request from Premier Education Group was discussed, and it was proposed and agreed to **RESOLVE**

that the request be accepted in principle, with authority delegated to the appropriate Council officers to set a sensible hire charge, bearing in mind that this is a commercial organisation.

6. Exchange of Information

6.1 Request from a Young Resident

The Locum Clerk reported on a letter from a young resident with suggestions for future equipment provision. This would be discussed in detail at the next meeting, but with the premise that there was currently no space within the current areas, and the ideas would need to be carried forward for new developments.

6.2. Request from Fitness Class

The Clerk reported on a request from a class using the Community Centre for use of the field again this year. There was no problem other than that the Council had received complaints from residents about the loud music accompanying the class. Charge would be £20 per session, and officers were asked to ensure that the music was kept at an acceptable level.

7. Date, Time and Venue for Next Meeting

This would be arranged after the Annual Parish Council Meeting in May, when Committees and Committee membership would be reviewed.

The Meeting closed at 9.50p.m.

Approved.....

Date.....