

IVYBRIDGE TOWN COUNCIL

The Minutes of the Parks and Open Spaces Committee held in the Town Hall on Tuesday 12 April 2022 at 6.45pm

Present: Cllr A Spencer (Chair)
Cllr A Rea
Cllr T Lannin
Cllr R Wilson

In attendance: Mr J Parsons (Town Clerk)
Mrs L Lane (Administration Officer)

There was no public participation session

PA21/040 **APOLOGIES:** Apologies were received from Cllrs Budd and L Rea.

PA21/041 **INTERESTS TO BE DECLARED:** No interests were declared.

PA21/042 **WORK PLAN:** The work plan was reviewed. The Town Clerk advised that the new Parks Officer has settled into the role really well and the Parks Team have ticked off a number of items on the list. They are currently planning work for the coming year. More information about what the Parks Team do on a day to day basis has been included. Lots of things are in progress or being researched. Cllr Lannin commented that is good to see that lots of things have been completed. Cllr T Rea queried whether things should be removed from the list once complete. Cllr Wilson suggested that they could be put on a separate list when completed. The Town Clerk explained that tasks had been left on for the year so it was clear to see what had been completed during the year. Cllr T Rea advised that he still needed to put something together regarding the War Graves. Cllr Wilson asked whether there had been any communications from the coroner regarding putting a lifebuoy in Longtimber Woods. The Town Clerk advised that no correspondence had been received. Cllr Lannin queried whether signage should be put up. The Town Clerk advised that signage had been discussed previously. Cllr Lannin asked whether the signage around the swimming pool is still there and whether this is needed. The Town Clerk explained that as this is a man-made structure there is a need for signage when it is full of water. Cllr T Rea commented that the workplan is very helpful. He then queried whether Committee Chairmen would still report to the Annual Town Meeting as this could form a basis for the report. The Town Clerk advised that the format of the Annual Town Meeting may be a bit different this year but the workplan could be circulated.

It was **RESOLVED** to note the information in the workplan.

PA21/043 **PLAY AREAS:** Members considered the report regarding the MacAndrews Field play equipment including quotations from playground contractors and an update on the Victoria Park play area.

MacAndrews Field

Cllr Wilson commented that he would not be happy going back to the original supplier and would want equipment with a better guarantee. The Town Clerk advised that the original desire was to have natural equipment and unfortunately this will decay as it is untreated. Although the Friends Group no longer exists, its members have indicated that they are keen to see the equipment replaced on a like for like basis. Cllr Wilson asked how well used the equipment is. Cllr Lannin said she had not seen many children using it.

The Town Clerk advised that further issues have come to light including the roundabout in Victoria Park requiring significant works. Inspectors have advised that unless work is started at MacAndrews Field in the next couple of weeks it will need to be properly fenced off. The Parks Team could dismantle the equipment. There should be a value to the wood as it is untreated.

Cllr Wilson commented that Heras fencing is expensive and children may still climb it.

All were in agreement for the Parks Team to dismantle the play equipment and to focus on Victoria Park for the time being.

Cllr Lannin thought that the Council should have a statement regarding this and find out what residents would prefer. Cllr Wilson suggested 'The play equipment in MacAndrews Field has been removed for health and safety reasons and the Parks Committee are reviewing where to spend their budget for this year'.

Cllr Lannin suggested that there should be a timescale in place for feedback.

Cllr Wilson suggested that it could state that the cost to replace would be at least £10,000.

The Town Clerk reminded members that funding may become available and could say that it will be reviewed in the autumn and in the meantime will look out for grant funding.

Cllr T Rea commented that he would prefer it if there was a vision for the site, guided by residents.

The Town Clerk suggested that there could be a public consultation over the summer which the committee could consider as part of setting the budget in the autumn.

All were in agreement to hold a consultation over the summer.

Victoria Park

Cllr Wilson queried whether the roundabout is repairable.

The Town Clerk advised that there was an issue with the bearings and also the ground level. The cost of putting this right is likely to be £2,000 - £3,000.

Cllr T Rea mentioned that the woodwork is also rotting.

The Town Clerk advised that the woodwork is on the surface. He also noted that the metal parts of the swings require some attention.

Cllr Lannin commented that she was happy for Officers to take this forward. All were in agreement.

It was **RESOLVED** to:

- i) approve the removal of the play equipment in MacAndrews Field by the Parks Team;
- ii) hold a public consultation over the summer to find out what residents would like, and to use this when setting the budget; and
- iii) delegate to Officers with regard to essential repairs required in Victoria Park.

PA21/044 **DCC ROAD WARDEN SCHEME:** Members considered the report regarding the DCC Road Warden Scheme and the benefits of highways training for the Parks Officers.

The Town Clerk advised that he had carried out some research into the contract, which doesn't require work to be done, but gives access to equipment and means that the team could, for example, pull weeds in the road.

Cllr Wilson commented that he would not want to see the Parks Team mending busy roads such as the pothole on the roundabout by the Trehill as this area is too busy.

The Town Clerk advised it would be more like filling in the holes in the pavement on Fore Street where bricks are being removed, cleaning up signs, removing weeds.

Cllr T Rea said he had little against this but we must not let Devon County Council off the hook with their responsibilities.

The Town Clerk commented that if members approve this then we must make sure we take photos of the work the Parks Team complete and share them so residents can see the great work we are doing.

All were in favour.

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the Town Council signing up to the Road Warden Scheme.

PA21/045 **USE OF FILHAM PARK:** Members considered the report regarding the request from Manstow Football Club to use an area of the park as a car park for an event.

Cllr T Rea commented that he felt comfortable that we were covered in case of any damage.

Cllr Wilson was pleased to see that the use would be weather dependent.

All were in favour.

It was **RESOLVED** to allow the use subject to how wet the ground is.

PA21/046 **UPDATES AND INFORMATION:** Updates and information were received (copy previously circulated).

Filham Masterplan

Cllr Wilson queried the position regarding the access track as he thought that the planning had been completed.

The Town Clerk explained that there had been an issue contacting the Donkey Sanctuary with regard to their contribution. They have now agreed to pay a fair proportion of the cost the road to their entrance. Also a change of staff at John Grimes and additional work around procurement has caused a delay. £85,000 has been allocated by South Hams District Council S106 monies, and the aim is to have the work completed in 1-2 weeks. The aim is to have this completed in the autumn as it needs to take place outside the cricket and football seasons. The Allotment Association are aware that this work is planned but still need to speak to the cadets.

Cllr T Rea asked about plans to provide refreshments. The Town Clerk advised that unfortunately the previous plans to provide refreshments had fallen apart. The issue is the would require access to utilities. We need to ensure that this would be a reliable service provided, not just ad hoc. The cricket club have been asked if they are interested. This is something to look at again next year once the picnic benches are in.

Lease arrangements

Cllr Lannin queried the rent terms for Manstow. The Town Clerk explained that his research had found parish councils generally charge a peppercorn rent for leases such as these. They maintain the site and since discussions they have been maintaining the tree area nicely. One issue was raised regarding an orange shipping container on the site, however they are going to paint this green.

Tree Planting

Cllr Wilson congratulated the team involved in tree planting. Cllr Lannin said that the trees planted at MacAndrews look really good too.

It was **RESOLVED** to receive and note the information.

Meeting ended at 7.34pm

Signed.....

Date: 23 May 2022