

**Northam Town Council – Minutes of the Westward Ho! Park Committee Meeting held on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> October at the Northam Hall, Fore Street, Northam at 6.00 pm**

**Present:** Cllrs Mrs Hodson (Chairman), Mrs McCarthy (Deputy Chairman), Laws, Leather, Newman-McKie and Sargent.  
Co-opted Members – Mrs C Hutchins and Mrs M Jones and Mr S Makeig-Jones

**In attendance:** Mr G Langton – Deputy Town Clerk

**2110/645 Apologies**

Apologies were recorded on behalf of Cllrs Edwards and Tisdale.

**2110/646 Chairman's announcements**

The Chairman announced that in line with the resolution made at the August 2021 meeting of Full Council, future meetings of this Committee would start at 6.30pm.

**2110/647 Declarations of interest**

Members were reminded that all interests should be declared prior to the item being discussed.

**2110/648 To agree the agenda between Part A and Part B**

It was **resolved** to agree the agenda as published  
Proposed: Cllr Hodson, Seconded: Cllr Laws (all in favour).

**2110/649 To confirm and sign the minutes of the Westward Ho! Park Meeting 14<sup>th</sup> September 2021**

It was **resolved** to confirm the minutes of the Westward Ho! Park meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> September 2021 as a correct record. They would be signed by the Chairman when available.  
Proposed: Cllr Leather, Seconded: Cllr McCarthy (all in favour)

**2110/650 Public Participation**

*Members of the public are permitted to make representations, answer questions and give evidence in respect of any item of business included in the agenda. Each member of the public is entitled to speak once only in respect of business itemised on the agenda and shall not speak for more than 4 minutes. The period of time which is designated for public participation in accordance with standing orders shall not exceed 20 minutes.*

**2110/651 To consider the Action Points**

The Committee heard that the maple and oak trees in the flower beds were approximately 30- feet from the run of the mains cable and could therefore remain in place.

The Committee heard that both the power and water supplies were active and that the Council remained on a standard tariff for its electricity at the pavilion.

**Action point: Town Clerk to include a review of available 100% renewable tariffs for the pavilion on the next agenda.**

The Committee heard that one architect has quoted for 10 hours at £95 per hour, two others were unable to quote given their workload and a fourth had yet to provide a quote.

**Action point: Deputy Town Clerk to follow this up with the fourth architect.**

The remainder of the action Points were noted.

- 2110/652 To receive a report from the Chair of FOTWHOP**  
The Committee received the Chair's report, that 158 numbers had been sold for the '200 Club', with more hoping to be sold at the Official Opening of the play park in November 2021. The Chair of FOTWHOP reported that the FOTWHOP committee were reviewing the rules of the '200 Club' for 2022.  
The Committee heard that FOTWHOP had a committee meeting on the 18<sup>th</sup> October 2021 to identify ways in which it could support the Official Opening of the play park.
- 2110/653 To consider a request from the FOTWHOP volunteer gardeners for funding**  
It was **resolved** to provide a Christmas Tree of approximately 8 feet and suitable solar-powered or battery lights for the Park from Council funds.  
Proposed Cllr Hodson, Seconded: Cllr McCarthy (all in favour)  
**Action point: Town Clerk to arrange for the purchase of a suitable tree and lights.**  
**Action point: Deputy Town Clerk to advise the Maintenance Team of the need to assist the volunteer gardeners with work at height.**
- 2110/654 To consider the next stage of the project plan to include the pavilion and potential placement of seating.**  
The Committee heard that FOTWHOP had £2,625 in donated funds remaining for the purchase of benches and picnic tables. The Committee considered the layout suggested by the FOTWHOP volunteer gardeners, which included three benches and three picnic tables. The Committee considered a fourth picnic table to replace the one currently located close to the Avon Lane entrance.  
  
It was **resolved** to agree the locations of the benches and tables as described on the Plan provided, with the addition of the picnic bench close to the Avon Lane gate.  
Proposed Cllr Hodson, Seconded: Cllr Laws (all in favour)  
  
It was **resolved** to purchase up to 4 picnic tables, all of which should be accessible to wheelchair users and up to 3 benches to the budget of £2,625, in a brown colour for all components, including fixings as appropriate.  
Proposed Cllr Hodson, Seconded: Cllr McCarthy (all in favour)
- 2110/655 To receive an update on the Westward Ho! Park installation.**  
The Committee heard that the play equipment had all been installed and the play surface was being installed in the same week as this meeting. Before the park could be opened for use, it had to be inspected by an independent specialist. The likely date for opening was week ending the 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2021.  
  
**Action point: The dates for the completion of the park to be shared on social media and the Council's website by office staff.**
- 2110/656 To consider the opening of the WESTWARD Ho! Park Play Area event.**  
The Committee heard that it had been decided to hold the event on the 6<sup>th</sup> November 2021, from midday to 3pm, to include entertainment, fund raising activities, limited free food and ice creams and toilets, all provided through the Welcome Back Fund.  
It was **resolved** to delegate the work to a sub-group of the Committee consisting of Cllrs Mrs Hodson, Mrs McCarthy and Laws, including Mrs C Hutchins and members of the Council's staff.  
Proposed: Cllr Hodson, Seconded: Cllr McCarthy (all in favour)  
**Action point: Deputy Town Clerk to obtain picture files of the designs from the company engaged.**

**2110/657 To consider an update on the Tennis Courts and work with the Lawn Tennis Association (LTA).**

The Committee heard that representatives of the Council had had a productive meeting with the regional LTA representative, who had confirmed that the LTA would be able to support the Council's work to refurbish the tennis courts, though the Council would need to find funds of its own to meet the full costs.

The Committee heard that only one SAPCA registered contractor worked in the area.

The Committee discussed the plans for renovation, whether to include other sports or concentrate on providing four tennis courts, noting the relative dimensions of courts for various sports and the different requirements in playing surface.

The Committee heard that the fencing around the courts was deteriorating and would need replacement, along with the supporting stanchions.

It was **resolved** to explore the project with the LTA representative, seek a site visit from a specialist tennis court installer, considering a detailed report at a future meeting.

Proposed: Cllr McCarthy, Seconded: Cllr Laws (all in favour).

**Action point: Deputy Town Clerk to liaise with the regional LTA representative over the requirements of the LTA regarding the number of quotes required.**

**Action point: Town Clerk to include on the agenda at a future meeting.**

Part B

**2110/658 To resolve: that under section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 that the public and press be excluded from the meeting**  
It was **resolved** that under section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 that the public and press be excluded from the meeting.  
Proposed: Cllr Hodson, Seconded: Cllr McCarthy (all in favour)

**2110/659 To confirm and sign the minutes of the Westward Ho! Park Meeting 14<sup>th</sup> September 2021 (Part B)**  
It was **resolved** to confirm the **Part B** minutes of the Westward Ho! Park meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> September 2021 as a correct record. They would be signed by the Chairman when available.  
Proposed: Cllr Leather, Seconded: Cllr Sargent (all in favour)

**2110/660 To resolve to readmit members of the press and public**  
It was resolved to readmit members of the press and public  
Proposed: Cllr Hodson, Seconded: Cllr Laws (all in favour)

There being no further business the meeting finished at 7.40pm

Signed ..... Dated.....

