

**Northam Town Council – Minutes of the Westward Ho! Park Committee Meeting held on Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> April 2023 in the Council Chamber of the Town Hall at 6.30 pm**

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

**In attendance:** Mrs Jane Mills (Town Clerk)

- 2304/1095 Apologies**  
No apologies were received.
- 2304/1096 Chairman’s announcements**  
Members were advised that the waste collection renewal request had been received, they were happy to continue with it.
- 2304/1097 Declarations of interest**  
Members were reminded that all interests should be declared prior to the item being discussed.  
No member declared an interest in any item.
- 2304/1098 To agree the agenda between Part A and Part B (confidential information)**  
It was **resolved** to agree the agenda between Part A and Part B (*confidential information*) after deleting agenda item 11. Further information had been sought and it would not be possible to proceed further, currently with a market. The council would be in breach of covenants and there are many market regulations to be complied with.  
Proposed: Cllr Mrs Hodson, Seconded Cllr Tisdale (all in favour)
- 2304/1099 To confirm and sign the minutes of the Westward Ho! Park Meeting 21<sup>st</sup> March 2023**  
It was **resolved** to confirm and sign the minutes of the Westward Ho! Park Meeting 21<sup>st</sup> March 2023  
Proposed: Cllr Tisdale, Seconded Cllr Leather (majority in favour, one abstention, not present at the meeting)
- 2304/1100 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. A question shall not receive a response at the meeting nor start a debate on the question. The chair of the meeting may direct that a written or oral response be given. The period of time which is designated for public participation in accordance with standing orders shall not exceed 20 minutes. No members of the public were present.
- 2304/1101 To consider the Action Points**  
Action Points were noted
- 2304/1102 To receive a report from the Chair of FOTWHOP**  
The chair of FOTWHOP reported that the last 200 club draw of the year had recently taken place and over 950 pounds has been raised during that time.

Renewal letters have been sent out to existing members and there will be publicity regarding joining on Facebook and at the Mayfair where FOTWHOP will also have a plant stall. Councillor Hodson and Councillor Laws were thanked for their grant contributions, which had been used towards employment of the garden designer for the sensory garden.

The AGM will be held at the Kingsley Hall on Friday the 12th of May. £5 has been received from Amazon smile this has now ceased operation.

A report on behalf of the volunteer gardeners advised that the lady volunteers and one gentleman have worked very hard and are continuing to plant up vegetable boxes, there are two new beds that have been created. Plants have been purchased in anticipation of the completion of the sensory garden. The gardeners would welcome any donations of plants, it was further reported that the hot bin is now working well. members asked a question in relation to use of hose pipes and this will be investigated.

It was proposed by Councillor Mrs Hodson, and seconded by Councillor Leather that a vote of thanks should be accorded to Mrs Hutchins, for all her work over the past year as Chair of FOTWHOP, and to Mr Makeig-Jones for all his work with the volunteer gardeners. (all in favour)

**2304/1103 To receive an update regarding the tennis courts (LTA procurement process)**

An e-mail was read out from the LTA as follows: "I am afraid I don't but have chased the contractor and emphasised this being the barrier to moving forward. They are understanding.

In fairness they are dealing with such a large volume of projects, they I am sure are doing their best.

The costs, as we know are the crux of the next steps in the project discussions.

I appreciate it is difficult for the parks meeting to resolve much without these costs – but it may be a good opportunity to think about budgets for both tennis / MUGA overall as the figures will no doubt be higher than the initial costs I have given you for the three tennis courts in isolation."

It was resolved to defer this matter to the first meeting of the new committee following the local elections.

Proposed: Cllr Mrs Hodson, seconded: Cllr Tisdale (all in favour)

**2304/1104 To consider regularising a response to groups and organisations wishing to use the park and facilities (to include the most recent enquiry)**

The proposed protocol was circulated to all Members and it was **resolved** to adopt the protocol to use as a future response to enquiries.

Proposed: Cllr Mrs Hodson, seconded: Cllr Mrs McCarthy (all in favour) The protocol will be published on the website under policies.

**PART B**

**2304/1105 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 Tisdale (all in favour)

**2304/1106 To receive an update on the Sensory Garden development**

Members were advised that two quotes have been received which far exceed the original anticipated cost. It was agreed to write to the two contractors advising that the Council was not dispensing with their services totally but the new Council will reconsider design, and layout.

It was **resolved** to defer the matter to the 1<sup>st</sup> meeting of the new committee to consider design, costs, and requirements, potentially adapting the materials used.

Proposed: Cllr Hodson, Seconded Tisdale (all in favour)

Cllr Mrs McCarthy complimented the committee/council on the huge success of the play area and thanked Cllr Mrs Hodson and Cllr Laws for leading the way forward with Westward Ho! Park and especially the late Mr Hodson and Mr Durkin for their assistance. All had worked together with no political issues and had provided a huge service to the community. The future looks very exciting.

**2304/1107 To confirm and sign the minutes of the Westward Ho! Park Meeting 21<sup>st</sup> March 2023 (Pt B)**

There were no part B minutes

**2303/1108 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 Leather (all in favour)

There being no further business the meeting closed at 7.15 pm

Signed.....Date.....