

MAGHULL TOWN COUNCIL
AMENITIES COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD 12th JUNE 2019

PRESENT - Councillor Y Sayers (In the Chair) and Councillors (Cllrs): Josh Burns, McKinley and J. Sayers.

ALSO PRESENT – A. McIntyre (Town Clerk), A. Spencer (Amenities Manager), P. Johnson (Grounds Maintenance Supervisor), R.O'Hare (Grounds Maintenance Operative) and S. Larking (Minutes).

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

1. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE** – Apologies received from Cllrs Carr, Desmond and K. Hughes.
2. **DECLARATION OF INTERESTS** – None received.
3. **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION** – None notified.
4. **MINUTES OF FINANCE AND AMENITIES COMMITTEE**

RESOLVED that the Minutes of Finance and Amenities Committee held on 6th March 2019 were approved as a correct record.

5. **PROPOSED 2019/20 WORK PROGRAMME FOR AMENITIES COMMITTEE**

The Amenities Manager welcomed two members of the Facilities Team who were attending for the first time.

The purpose of the Work Programme was to set the direction for the year. Input from members very welcome.

Key points made by Cllrs:

- Tree work: to consider replanting a tree for every one cut down. Noted that Officers would have regard to the 2018 Tree Survey for advice on re-planting. Concerns about reaction from residents to recent hedge cutting. Officers to contact Mersey Forest about free trees. Media messages to make clear that the Council is working with Mersey Forest.
- Leases: Lease for Venue is critical. Noted that Venue lease is being considered by Finance and General Purposes Committee. Amenities Committee to focus on sports assets.

RESOLVED that

1. **Officers to contact Mersey Forest about free trees**
2. **Work programme to be amended to make clear that Amenities Committee will focus on sports assets rather than Leases**
3. **The report be noted**

JB

6. PARKS REIVEW 2019

The Amenities Manager reported that he had been working with partners to conduct a review of Parks. Review included proposals for new equipment in Glenn Park. Report makes a number of assumptions e.g. use of section 106 funding in parks town-wide, and not those just within the ward of Sudell. Tendering would be required for some elements of the work programme including proposed new bins and street furniture. The work was linked to the review of the Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) Strategy which was being led by the Community Services Manager.

Key points made by Cllrs:

- Good report; welcome themes for parks; need time to reflect on report
- S106 funding is for Sudell Ward (money from Homes and Communities Agency) but could be spent across Maghull; funding is for enhancing green space. Bins may not meet criteria
- Consider options for play equipment suitable for users with disabilities
- Focus should be on younger children not teenagers
- Concerns about investment in Glenn Park; area unsupervised which increases risk of vandalism; consider moving equipment planned for Glenn Park to KGV Park as more security on site
- Consider other options for Glenn Park
- Consider options for Whinney Brook and other parks with no facilities

Response from Officers:

- Noted that most parks in Sudell Ward
- Resources were limited, and officers were trying to spread money as far as possible.
- Some accessible play equipment in Dodds Park, although more was needed in other parks.
- KGV Flagship park. Concerns about moving new play equipment to KGV
- Recommend a sub-committee (Cllrs Josh Burns, McKinley, John Sayers and Yvonne Sayers) to take forward the Parks Review.

RESOLVED that

- 1. Sub Committee to be established up to take forward the Parks Review; members Cllrs Josh Burns, McKinley, John Sayers and Yvonne Sayers**
- 2. The report be noted**

7. NEEDS BASED WORKING MODEL FOR GROUNDS MAINTENANCE OPERATIONS

Members considered the report on moving grounds maintenance operations from a geographical model, to a "needs based" model. The geographical model, recommended in the Organisation review was based on a north/south split. This offered limited flexibility and did not take into account characteristics of each site which resulted in an unfair distribution of work. Needs based model would give more flexibility to respond to issues promptly.

The Amenities Manager reported that the grounds maintenance team are being more proactive and working hard to tackle overdue work in parks e.g. taking back pathways. Numerous compliments have been received regarding the improving condition of parks.

JB

Cllrs sought clarification regarding future works to trees and hedges following residents' concerns regarding recent hedge works at Pimbley Playing Field. The Amenities Manager reported that he had contacted DEFRA to obtain a licence to permit the disturbing of birds and/or destruction of nests during the bird nesting season, on the grounds of public health & safety.

RESOLVED that

- 1. Endorse moved to "needs based" model for grounds maintenance operations.**
- 2. The report be noted**

8. JUDO HUT AT MAGHULL TOWN HALL

Members considered the report regarding the Judo Hut which has been subject to vandalism and arson. Fencing has been erected to provide additional security but vandalism continues. Merseyside Fire and Rescue Service (MFRS) have added the hut to their "buildings at risk" register. Four options were considered, including demolition. No funding in 2019/20 for any works due to budget pressures. Officers to pursue costs for option one.

RESOLVED that

- 1. Officers to seek costs for Option 1 in the report.**
- 2. The report be noted**

9. APPOINTMENT OF SUB CONTRACTOR TO COMPLETE PRIORITY ONE TREE WORKS

Members considered the update on the appointment of the sub-contractor to complete priority one tree works, as identified in the 2018 Tree Survey. The Amenities Manager reported that two grounds maintenance operatives had received chainsaw training and had dealt with some priority one works. However, a substantial number of trees still had to be felled.

Ken Linford Garden Care Ltd had been appointed as sub-contractor following invitations to quote. Work was scheduled to start in end-June/early July. The sub-contractor would complete Environmental Impact Assessments and obtain any required licences from DEFRA. Guidance from Defra to be circulated

Cllrs asked for a briefing note to help respond to issues raised.

RESOLVED that

- 1. Officers to prepare a briefing note on tree works including guidance from Defra**
- 2. The report be noted**

10. CHAIRS REPORT

No report given



CHAIRMAN

