

**MAGHULL TOWN COUNCIL**  
**AMENITIES COMMITTEE MEETING**  
**HELD 25<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 2019**

**PRESENT** - Councillor Josh Burns (In the Chair) and Councillors (Cllrs): Carr, Desmond, K. Hughes and McKinley.

**ALSO PRESENT** – A. Spencer (Amenities Manager), R.O'Hare (Grounds Maintenance Operative), S. Larking (Minutes) and 3 members of the public.

1. **CHAIR OF MEETING** – In the absence of the Chair and Deputy Chair Cllr Josh Burns was elected to chair the meeting.
2. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE** – Apologies received from Cllrs J. Sayers and Y. Sayers.
3. **DECLARATION OF INTERESTS** – Cllrs McKinley and Carr declared pecuniary interests as Sefton Ward Councillors for the agenda item on the Parks review.
4. **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION** – None notified in accordance with the Constitution (8 days notice required). However, as members of the public had attended for the agenda item on celebration benches it was agreed that Standing Orders could be suspended so they had an opportunity to speak.

**RESOLVED that Standing Orders be suspended for 5 minutes (from 6.33pm)**

A member of the public made the following key points:

- Long term resident of Maghull (since 1938)
- Family bereavement earlier in the year. Would like to put a memorial bench in Old Hall Park as family regularly use park
- No benches in park other than in children's play area; park designed for younger people, many people walk through park on way to canal
- Happy to work with council on site of bench

Note: agenda running order revised to take celebration benches earlier to follow public participation.

**5. CELEBRATION BENCHES**

The paper proposed the introduction of celebration benches in response to a request from a resident for a memorial bench.

Key points:

- The scheme is based on one operated by Sefton Council.
- The proposal is to use Broxap as the supplier following an earlier street furniture tendering process.
- Broxap bench is more robust than that proposed by the resident. Important to have robust and standard benches. Benches to be fixed to flag stones with bolts for security.

*YMS*

- Council would be liable for remedial works e.g. vandalism but would not meet the costs for replacement

Points raised by Cllrs:

- Good scheme; families will be interested
- Will need to control/limit numbers of benches, important to avoid disappointment if limit reached in one park
- Offer option to plant a tree. Noted comment from Grounds Maintenance Operative that memorial trees have not fared well in Maghull parks due to vandalism.
- Officers to liaise with residents about the scheme

**RESOLVED that**

1. **A Celebration Bench scheme be introduced in Maghull Parks**
2. **Officers to liaise with residents about location and charge for bench**
3. **The report be noted**

6. MINUTES OF AMENITIES COMMITTEE 12<sup>th</sup> June 2019.

**RESOLVED that the Minutes of Amenities Committee held on 12<sup>th</sup> June 2019 were approved as a correct record.**

7. AMENITIES MANAGER UPDATE

The Amenities Manager provided an update on actions following the meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup> June:

- Mersey Forest: Held meeting; working with schools on tree planting
- Work programme: Amended to focus work on sports assets rather leases
- Parks sub- committee: Met in July; helped shape parks review
- “Needs based” model for grounds maintenance operations: endorsed at last meeting and in operation
- Judo Hut: Update on agenda
- Briefing note on tree felling: Press notice issued, information on social media, in Champion and on Council’s web site

**RESOLVED that**

1. **A report entitled “Amenities Manger Update – Committee resolutions” to be a standing agenda item for future meetings**
2. **The report be noted**

8. PROPOSED 2019/20 WORK PROGRAMME FOR AMENITIES COMMITTEE

The Amenities Manager reported progress on the work programme:

- Parks Review: Revised report to be presented to Committee later in meeting
- Appraisals: Initial discussions with all Grounds Maintenance staff including discussions about training/learning opportunities. Noted that chain saw training had generated savings of £3,500. Further training identified.
- Priority One and Two Trees works: Update to follow later in meeting

- Internal Audit recommendations: Actions taken to respond to recommendations e.g. compliance with financial regulations for quotes and Purchase Orders authorised in advance of purchases

Key points made by Cllrs:

- Helpful if following added to report for clarity:
  - Timeline
  - SMART objectives
  - RAG rating
- Training should be linked to an annual staff development plan linked to organisational objectives
- Concerns about funding for MTC Fleet/Vehicles – consider leases as well as purchase. Options to be discussed at Chairs Sub-group
- Consider viability of “green” vehicles

**RESOLVED that**

1. Report to be revised to reflect feedback from Cllrs
2. Options for vehicles/fleet to be considered and presented to the Chair’s Sub-Group
3. The report be noted

**9. JUDO HUT AT MAGHULL TOWN HALL**

The Amenities Manager updated Members:.

- Building is a steel frame with concrete cladding
- Vandalism has left the fire retardant membrane exposed.
- Disconnection of electricity £175 + VAT; demolition of building approximately £6,820. Costs could increase if asbestos found. Cost of demolition from asset maintenance budget of which 8.5% spent to date
- Steel frame could be left as part of demolition works. Frame could be used to create a purpose built facility for the Facilities Team as the current building is not fit for purpose
- No further ASB since fencing put up to secure building
- Arson on KGV Park. Pallets from Leisure Centre used to set fires by green gym and children’s play area

Grounds Maintenance Operative suggested that it might be worth changing the roof to reduce access from the bank alongside the A59.

Response from Cllrs

- If re-use building will need utilities (electricity and water)
- Portacabins available with kitchens and showers
- Scope out more options for re-use of building for Facilities Team

**RESOLVED that**

1. Scope out more option for re-use of the building for Facilities Team
2. The report be noted



## 10. PROGRESSION OF PRIORITY ONE TREE WORKS

The Amenities Manager reported that the Contractor (Ken Linford Garden Care) have done an excellent job.

- All trees (including an additional 6 not identified in Tree Survey) now felled except 1. Some changes to programme due to nesting birds.
- Increase in cost due to additional works.
- Some residents unhappy about tree works. Only dead/dying/diseased trees felled
- Annual inspection to ensure estate in order
- Issues about trees along the culvert on Hall Lane which are dangerous. Responsibility rests with Sefton as original agreement (no lease) included Old Hall Park but not the culvert. Mark Shaw, Legal Services at Sefton, reviewing agreement
- Working with schools to replant trees; will not be like for like
- Developing an heritage trail which aims to link schools with parks

In response Cllrs made the following points:

- Officers to follow up with Sefton about responsibility for trees on Hall Lane
- Some of the beams on the rustic play area in Glen Park are loose. Review ASAP as dangerous
- Noted that trees in Red Lion close are responsibility of Sefton

### **RESOLVED that**

- 1. Officers to follow up with Sefton about responsibility for trees in culvert along Hall Lane**
- 2. Rustic play area to be reviewed and actions taken to secure beams**
- 3. The report be noted**

## 11. FOOTBALL PITCHES FOR 2019/20 SEASON – PIMBLEY PLAYING FIELD

The Amenities Manager gave an update on Pimbley playing field:

- Pimbley (2 pitches) closed in 2018 for health and safety reasons due to water logging and drainage issues. Drains unblocked by Sefton.
- Youth team approached Council to use pitch
- Proposal is to open the pitch closest to changing rooms
- Club to use changing facilities, some works needed e.g. toilets, cladding and a new lock. Costs to be met by Asset Maintenance budget
- Considering a defibrillator
- To reduce time spent cutting pitches will reduce height of cut at Old Hall Field, Balls Wood and Pimbley

Response from Cllrs

- Officers to visit Whinney Brook as football training and 5-a-side matches taking place for which Council receives no income
- Request to map defibrillators not complete so unclear if there are gaps in provision
- No obligation on landlord to provide defibrillators. Funding available from national charities e.g. Oliver King Foundation

**RESOLVED that**

- 1. One pitch at Pimbley to be reopened for the 2019/20 season**
- 2. Sefton District School Boys Under 15s to hire the pitch and changing facilities for 2019/20**
- 3. Officers to undertake defibrillator mapping and look at options to secure funding for defibrillators**
- 4. The report be noted**

**12. CHAIRS REPORT**

No report given

**13. EXCLUSION OF PRESS & PUBLIC**

**RESOLVED that the press and public be excluded due to confidential nature of the item under discussion.**

**14. PARKS REIVEW 2019**

The Amenities Manager reported that the sub-committee had met and developed proposals for consideration by the Committee. Plans for 5 parks (KGV, Glenn, Moorhey, Hall Lane and Moss).

Key points:

- Funding of £129,000 available from S106 funding.
- KGV designated as a flagship park; will create a new park for younger children with a "Hornby" theme and provide equipment for older children (up to 16)
- Recommend appointment of Wicksteed as the Council's preferred supplier has been through as procurement process with Sefton Council for Smithy Green Park in Formby
- Seeking approval for phase 2 of bin replacement programme. Funding from Amenities Budget not S.106 Funds.
- Planting in parks to be met by Amenities budget from 2012/21 – 2022/23. Recommend that decisions on planting to be delegated to officers
- Will seek external funding to improve signage in parks
- Council will have to maintain surfaces in play areas
- Equipment from KGV will be reallocated to other parks

Response from Cllrs:

- S106 funding from Sudell Ward from developments; priority is to spend money on projects in Sudell ward
- Investment should be focussed on 2 parks. Priorities are KGV Park and Glenn Park. Money allocated as follows:
  - £85,000 - KGV
  - £34,000 - Glenn Park
- KGV to be the flagship park for Maghull
- Appointment of Wicksteed as preferred supplier for play equipment

*YMS*

- Resolutions about s106 expenditure to be referred to Finances and General Purposes Committee for approval

**RESOLVED that**

1. Wicksteed be appointed to supply playground equipment to deliver the Parks Review 2019
2. The Parks Review 2019 sets the strategic direction for the management of parks and open spaces owned/managed by Maghull Town Council
3. KGV Playing Field to be the flagship park for Maghull
4. Operational responsibility for parks and open spaces in Maghull rests with the Amenities Manager
5. Approval to be sought from Finance and General Purposes Committee to allocated S106 funding to KGV park (£85,000) and Glenn Park (£34,000)
6. The report be noted

  
CHAIRMAN

4/12/2019.