

# Minutes of Amenities Committee Meeting Held Wednesday 06 October 2021 at 6:30 PM

Those present :

Chairman : Cllr J Sayers

Councillors : Cllr J Desmond, Cllr S Doherty, Cllr R Ferguson, Cllr K Hughes, Cllr F Sharp

Officers : P Dillon, S Larking

## 1 Apologies for Absence

Apologies have been received from Cllr June Burns, Cllr A Lloyd, Cllr D Mullen, Cllr Y Sayers. In the absence of the Chair it was agreed that Cllr John Sayers (Deputy Chair) would Chair the meeting

## 2 Declarations of Interest

None received

## 3 Public Participation.

None received

## 4 To Confirm the Minutes of the Last Meeting

**RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting on 14th July 2021 be approved as a correct record

## 5 Demolition of Whinneybrook Changing Pavilion

Members were informed that demolition of Whinneybrook Pavilion, due to health and safety concerns, had been agreed at Full Council as part of the Asset Maintenance Plan. Progress had been slower than planned. Prior to demolition the electricity supply needs to be moved as it is required for a water pump. Meeting on site with contractors on 7th October. Aim is to complete the works within the current financial year. Approval sought for costs of works to be met from Facilities Budget (Department 2) rather than the Asset Maintenance Plan (Department 4)

**RESOLVED** that

**1. Demolition/electrical works on Whinneybrook to be funded through 2021/22 Facilities Service Budget**

**2. The report be noted**

## 6 2021/22 Football Season

Members were informed that the football season had started. 3 Teams playing at Pimbley. 1 adult and 2 junior teams. One pitch is shared. All clubs have paid pitch hire - £1,200 in total (£300 for juniors and £600 for adults). Works by Sefton Council had relieved flooding. Pitch cut once a week unless there is a mid week match. Changing facilities not in good condition. Clubs not able to use showers. Cllrs noted the report and that income received.

**RESOLVED** that the report be noted.

## 7 Tree Survey 2021/22

The Amenities Manager reported that the first Tree Survey was completed in 2018 by Knowsley Council. The report recommended an annual inspection. Quotes sought for a second survey. Knowsley Council awarded the contract. Cost will be £5,500. The survey will identify trees to be felled as well as any that are overhanging or need

crowning. Do not anticipate the same level of felling as last time. Grounds Maintenance Team will be able to do some works but a new contractor may be required. An annual survey will be incorporated into future budgets like the annual ROSPA survey. Also looking at options to train MTC staff to carry out inspections. The outcome of the survey will be fed into the Council's Asset Manager package and trees will be tagged. Aim is to complete the survey in advance of the next meeting to inform budget setting in December. Depending on the level of works may need to flag a precept demand if unable to meet costs from current budget. The Town Clerk noted that in the future there will be additional costs for tree works due to the number of new trees planted

Cllrs noted that they are keen to upskill grounds staff and look at options for Park Ranger roles.

**RESOLVED that the report be noted**

**8 2021/22 ROSPA Inspection of Playground Equipment**

Members were informed that ROSPA had completed the annual inspection of play equipment in August 2021. Overall, it was an improved picture compared to 2020. The report highlighted one dangerous piece of equipment in Dodds Park, some play surfaces which have been identified as trip hazards and some shackles on swings to be replaced. Where there has been investment, e.g. KGV Park, the risk is lower. Works to be carried out in the Autumn. Some works can be done without closing parks others may need to be closed for a short time. Team behind with inspections due to a member of staff on sick leave. New Maintenance Officer and Grounds Maintenance Team to be trained to carry out inspections.

**RESOLVED that the report be noted**

**9 Approval of Contractor for Play Equipment Upgrades**

Members were informed that a Tender had been received. The details to be discussed under Agenda item 13.

**RESOLVED that the report be noted**

**10 Chair's Report**

No report given.

**11 Exclusion of the Press and Public**

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

**12 Received Contractor Tenders for Play Equipment Upgrades**

Members were informed that four companies had been invited to tender. One tender had been received on 4th October 2021. It had been opened in advance of the meeting with two Cllrs present (Cllr J Sayer and Cllr K Hughes). Tender received was on budget (£100,000 excluding VAT). Audit regulations state that if the process has been carried out correctly it is possible to appoint. Agreed that Wickstead to be appointed. They will be informed on 7th October 2021. They will start on site on 18th October 2021. A press notice will be issued. The Amenities Manager is preparing a list of order of works.

Key points in discussion:

- Council familiar with Wickstead's work. They won tender for works in KGV and Glen Parks

- Some equipment will be accessible and suitable for a range of disabilities
- Pressure on play equipment in KGV Park as little/no equipment in other parks
- Issue about benches in " no dogs areas" as those attending parks with children and dogs have no where to sit

**RESOLVED that the report be noted**

**13**

**Amenities Manager Update - Committee Resolutions**

Members received a report from the Amenities Manager regarding committee resolutions since its last meeting on 14th July 2021.

Note Cllr Doherty left the meeting at 7.20pm

**RESOLVED that the report be noted**

J.A. J. P.P. CHAIR

