

Minutes of Amenities Committee Meeting Held Wednesday 09 February 2022 at 6:30 PM

Those present :

Chairman : Cllr Y Sayers

Councillors : Cllr J Desmond, Cllr S Doherty, Cllr K Hughes

Officers : S Larking, A Mc Intyre, A Spencer

1 Apologies for Absence

The Chair thanked everyone for attending. It was agreed to reorder the agenda to ensure the meeting was quorate for those items requiring a decision.

Apologies have been received from Cllr Ju Burns, Cllr A Lloyd, Cllr D Mullen, Cllr R Ferguson, Cllr Jo Burns, Cllr J Sayers

2 Declarations of Interest

None received

3 Public Participation.

None received

4 To Confirm the Minutes of the Last Meeting

Members present at the meeting considered the minutes of the last meeting.

RESOLVED that the minutes of 24th November 2021 be approved as a correct record

5 Phase Two Tree Planting - Urban Tree Challenge Fund

Members considered proposals for taking forward works to improve green spaces by planting trees in Maghull. Maghull is the only Parish Council receiving funding, over 3 years, via the Urban Tree Challenge Fund. Phase 1 (Old Hall Park and Pimbley) completed. Phase 2 is 60 standard/well established trees across 5 sites (Old Hall Field, Dodd's Park, Mersey Avenue, Moss Park and South Meade Park). Grant revised to provide more funding up front to purchase trees and pay for a sub contractor to plant trees. Trees to be planted by the end of March. Grant available in years 2 and 3 *if* trees are established. Grounds Maintenance Team to receive training on planting and maintenance. Robust process in place to help get trees established including watering and stakes/ties.

Cllrs were pleased to note that the trees planted on Old Hall Park had not been vandalised.

RESOLVED that:

1. To continue with the Urban Tree Challenge fund as outlined within the report presented

2. Approved Officer proposals for taking forward tree planning and future maintenance as part of Urban Tree Challenge Fund:

1. The species of trees at site location

2. Utilising J.A. Jones and Sons (an approved sub-contractor of Mersey Forest) to undertake planting at each site.

3. Maghull Town Council Grounds Maintenance Operatives to undertake a maintenance programme from 2022/23 onwards to ensure the successful establishment of planted trees.

4. Explore the potential of "friends of" groups supporting Grounds

J.A. Sayers

Maintenance Operatives in delivering against maintenance programme for planted trees

3. The contents of the report be noted.

6 Phase Three Tree Planting - Mersey Forest Grant Fund

Members were informed about the third and final tranche of tree planting. 28 trees - 13 for Pimbley and 15 for Old Hall Park. Type of trees to be agreed, preference for British native trees to broaden the wildlife habitat. In Pimbley trees to be interspersed between lighting columns. Issues raised about safety on Old Hall Park. Trees to be spaced to give good sight lines. Options for photo sensitive lighting as trees grow for additional security. Urgent decision needed to meet timetable for planting

Cllrs suggested that trees could be planted away from the footpath to reduce safety concerns. The Amenities Manager will discuss the proposed planting with Mersey Forest.

RESOLVED that:

- 1. Standard tree planting schemes approved as per Mersey Forest Northern Grant with a grant of £11,564.00 to be made available to Maghull Town Council for tree planting and future maintenance of 28 standard trees.**
- 2. Officers authorised to sign off grant documentation relating to Mersey Forest Northern Grant when it is submitted by Mersey Forest.**
- 3. Amenities Manager authorised to determine the species of trees for each site having due consideration to funds made available under the grant and/or labour charges.**
- 4. The contents of the report be noted.**

7 Scrummies

The Amenities Manager informed Members that Scrummies Catering were in the process of moving out of the Bowling Hut to alternative premises. A landlord inspection would be carried out once Scrummies had left - expected by 11 February 2022. Cllrs noted that the kitchen should remain as rent had been reduced to cover installation.

RESOLVED that the update be noted.

8 Review of 2021/22 Grounds Maintenance Operations and Proposed Works for 2022/23

The Amenities Manager reported that the Grounds Maintenance Team had worked hard to deliver the work programme. There were still a few areas to improve e.g. enhancement weeks. The Team had been focussing on tree works following the recent tree survey. This had been to the detriment of the parks. Further work was needed on the mechanism for inspections. Friends of Groups had been progressed. It was a challenge to get a consistent offer across all the parks e.g. flooding in Roundmeade. Works split between 2 windows: Spring/Summer and Autumn/Winter.

Areas to focus on moving forward:

- Green Flag status for KGV Park
- Fleet: Looking at options for fleet as old and failing MOTs. EV an option but issues using off road e.g. parks and lead in time is 12 months. Likely to rent in short term
- Health and Safety: Engagement from Grounds Maintenance team on H&S Working Group, but more work to do
- Urban Tree Challenge: Team committed to looking after the trees to ensure Council

J.A. S.O.

can claim future grant.

Cllrs noted the following points:

- Can see benefit of upgrades in parks
- ASB issues around Tree View Court. Working with schools to address issues at end of school day
- EV vehicles being scrapped as not economical to replace battery. Limit is 100,000 miles

RESOLVED that: the report be noted

9 Amenities Manager Update - Committee Resolutions

The Amenities Manager provided an update on Committee resolutions in progress:

Lease arrangements:

- ATC: Lease until 2028
- Tennis Club: Lease to be renegotiated. Awaiting copy of accounts to ensure club is financially viable
- Football Club: Lease to be renegotiated
- Bowling Hut: Not suitable for leasing due to drain issues. Cost to replace soakaway up to £2,000

Venue: Tender to be issued shortly. Lease for Venue needs to be ratified by Full Council

Utilities: Not possible to separate utilities for tenants at the Town Hall (Venue and Tennis Club). Will agree a service charge to cover utilities. Cllrs can vote for the amount of service charge

RESOLVED that: the report be noted

10 Progression of Tree Works following 2021/22 Tree Survey

The Amenities Manager gave an update on works following the tree survey. The Grounds Maintenance Team have felled 29 trees (of 35) priority 1 trees. This has generated savings of £12,500. Works for remaining trees to go out to tender along with any remedial works that require specialist services. Team to receive further training so able to carry out additional tree works including at height

RESOLVED that the update be noted

11 Wickstead Play Equipment Upgrades

Members noted that works to upgrade play equipment in parks (Balls wood, Old Hall, Mersey, Moorhey, Moss Park and Latham) would start in Old Hall Park at the end of February 2022. Amenities Manager in consultation with Sefton about works to Old Hall park. Payments to be made per site as works completed. Sites to be secured and neighbours to be informed.

RESOLVED that the update be noted

12 Update on Demolition of Whinneybrook Changing Pavilion

The Amenities Manager reported that the pavilion on Whinneybrook had demolished. The water supply has been shut off and the electricity supply for the pump will be reconnected on 10th February 2022.

RESOLVED that the update be noted



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Chair's Report

It was noted that the Amenities Manager would be leaving to take up a role at Prescot Town Council. The Chair thanked the Amenities Manager for his work in Maghull and his support to the Committee. She said it had been a pleasure to work with him and he had been brilliant. The thanks were noted.

RESOLVED that the report be noted

J.A. 

CHAIR