

Minutes of Amenities Committee Meeting Held Wednesday 05 October 2022 at 6:30 PM

Those present :

Chairman : Cllr J Sayers

Vice-Chairman : Cllr K Hughes

Councillors : Cllr Ju Burns, Cllr Jo Burns, Cllr R Ferguson, Cllr B Nixon

Officers : S Larking, R O'hare, D Stephens

1 Election of Chair and Vice Chair

RESOLVED that Cllr J Sayers be appointed as Chair of Amenities Committee and Cllr K Hughes as Vice Chair for the 2022/23 municipal year.

2 Apologies for Absence

Apologies received from Cllrs Carlsen, Darlington and T Hughes. It was noted that Cllr T Hughes will tender his resignation as he is no longer able to hold political office in his new career. The Chair recorded his thanks to Cllr T Hughes and sent best wishes for his new career.

3 Declarations of Interest

None received.

4 Public Participation.

None notified.

5 To Confirm the Minutes of the Last Meeting

RESOLVED that the minutes of the last meeting on 9 February 2022 be approved as correct record.

6 Park Signage

The Finance Officer set the context for signage. The proposal, to help give parks an identify, was raised in the Organisational Structure and Capacity Review carried out by Chris Rolley Associates in 2018. Also, it was agreed at Full Council that the Council needed to establish new ways of communicating with residents following the closure of the Champion Newspaper. A quote had been received for up to £120,000 for 2 signs per park. Costs include design, delivery and installation. Given the cost and pressure on budgets (funding required for works to the Activity Room for the Grounds Maintenance Team) the Amenities Manager proposed a rolling programme starting with signs in up to 4 parks in 2022/23 - Old Hall, Glenn Park, Dodds and KGV. Balance to be met from planned asset maintenance budget in 2023/24. Views invited from Cllrs on which signs (2 large per park or one large and one small); how many and which parks.

Points raised by Cllrs:

- Support idea of signs and can see benefits e.g. to promote corporate identity
- Staggered at costs, too expensive at time when residents are struggling with the cost of living and budgets are tight
- Unclear if residents would read information on notice boards
- Officers to consider other options including community groups e.g. Bootle Tool Shed and salvage/restoration companies e.g. Lost Art Ltd

RESOLVED that:

1. Officers to consider other options and report back to the next committee



2. The report be noted.

7 Tree Survey

The Amenities Manager updated Members on the Tree Survey:

- Following the Tree Survey in 2021 a number of remedial works were completed by June 2022. Works carried out by the Council's Ground Maintenance Team and Contractors
- Survey has been used to respond to residents complaints
- Regular complaints received about trees including over hanging branches and right to light. Right to Light a particular issue in Glenn Park
- Proposing a Tree Policy which will deal with issues raised by residents including frequency of works and right to light
- Future surveys will be staggered to pick up issues in different seasons

In response Cllrs made the following comments:

- Residents regularly raise issues about trees, concerns that trees are cut back/removed but also right to light. It was noted that over 15,000 trees have been planted in Maghull in recent years.
- A Tree Policy would be helpful to support officers and provide information for residents about works e.g. diseased/damaged and frequency of works
- Noted that NHS responsible for copse at side of health centre. Ivy been cut back to stop crowding. Council unable to take responsibility for area due to costs of maintenance

Note: Tree Planting was also discussed under Agenda Item 8 (play equipment upgrade). It was proposed that future tree planting was reviewed to include more parks.

RESOLVED that:

- 1. Tree Policy to be developed**
- 2. The report be noted**

8 Play Equipment Upgrades

The Amenities Manager reported that positive feedback has been received about new play equipment. However, it had highlighted issues about older play equipment e.g. in Dodd's Park. Work continues to paint and repair items in Dodd's Park. The latest ROSPA report had identified 50 actions which will be progressed. Vandalism had decreased since the Summer.

Key points from Cllrs:

- Officer to prepare a report on upgrading equipment in other parks and flood remediation in the Meads. It was noted that drainage was damaged when fencing installed.
- Noted that the Meads did not get any trees planted, which given flooding may benefit from more trees.
- Concerns raised about tree planting and personal safety in Old Hall Park
- Officers to explore if any flexibility to change the future tree planting programme to include the Meads

K.K.

RESOLVED that:

- 1. Officers to review cause of flooding in the Meads and cost of remediation**
- 2. Officer to review programme of future tree planting so that trees could be planted in the Meads**
- 3. The Report be noted**

9 Work Programme Update

The Grounds Maintenance Supervisor gave an update on the Autumn/Winter programme:

- Leaf collection
- Grass cutting until early November
- Bin collections through the Autumn and Winter
- Tree works as identified in the Tree Survey all winter
- Bowling Green maintenance
- Football pitches marking weekly
- Indoor works when weather gets too cold e.g. bowling hut maintenance and cladding pavilion at Pimbley

Cllrs made the following comments:

- Interested in information about grot spots and issues in parks
- Seating in parks raised by residents e.g. only seats in play areas. It was noted that there is 1 memorial bench. Officers to provide a report on increasing the number of benches in parks and introducing picnic tables

RESOLVED that:

- 1. Information on grot spots and issues in parks to be reported at future meetings**
- 2. Officers to provide a report on additional benches and picnic tables for parks**
- 3. The report be noted**

10 Chair's Report

No report given.

CHAIR

