

Minutes of Amenities Committee Meeting Held Wednesday 23rd November 2022 at 6:30 PM

Those present :

Chairman : Cllr K Hughes

Councillors : Cllr P Darlington, Cllr R Ferguson, Cllr B Nixon

Officers : S Larking, A Mc Intyre

1 Apologies for Absence

The Chair thanked those attending.

Apologies have been received from Cllr J Sayers, Cllr Ju Burns, Cllr C Carlsen and D Stephens

2 Declarations of Interest

None declared.

3 Public Participation.

None received.

4 To Confirm the Minutes of the Last Meeting

RESOLVED that the minutes of the last meeting on 5th October 2022 be approved as a correct record.

5 Park Signage

Members considered revised costs for signage. Costs reduced from £58,000 to £17,500 for 14 signs. Sign for Bobbys Wood to be paid for by Friends of Maghull and District.

Key points raised by Cllrs:

- Welcomed the reduced costs of the new option
- Cheap and cheerful.
- Concerns about risk of vandalism
- Signs are a necessity but not sure they are useful as most people don't check signs

The Town Clerk made the following comments in response:

- There is a legal requirement to provide information on who owns land and to provide a contact number
- Signs should be vandal proof
- Need to agree the main entrance for those parks with more than one entrance

RESOLVED that

1. Funding agreed for 14 signs at £17,498 (excluding VAT) from Amenities core budget
2. The report be noted

6 Tree Policy

Members considered the draft Tree policy. They agreed that it made sense to have a Tree Policy for the Council.

RESOLVED that

- 1. Tree policy agreed and be implemented**
- 2. The report be noted**

7 Phase 3 Tree Planting

At the last meeting Cllrs raised concerns about future tree planting. They requested trees be planted on the Meades to help alleviate flooding. The Town Clerk reported that it would take more than tree planting to resolve flooding on the Meades. While willow trees (not part of planting scheme) can help reduce flooding they are difficult to maintain as can split and be dangerous. The park was a flood plain when the houses were built and land drains had been installed. Unfortunately, drains had been damaged when the play area was upgraded. The Council is not liable for flooding. Recommend that advice sought from a drainage expert/engineer and consider options.

On tree planting Cllrs again raised issues about maintenance and security/personal safety and which parks trees are planted in. They agreed (unanimously) to cancel Phase 3 tree planting.

RESOLVED that

- 1. Phase 3 tree planting to be cancelled**
- 2. Drainage engineer to be appointed to advise on options to reduce flooding in the Meades**
- 3. The report be noted**

8 Flooding on The Meades

Update covered under Agenda item 7.

RESOLVED that

- 1. A drainage engineer to be appointed.**
- 2. The report be noted**

9 Park Seating

Members considered the options for installing benches in Maghull Parks. It was noted that the Council has a Memorial Bench Policy (approximately £500 for a bench, installation and maintenance). They preferred Option B. Agreed to fund 11 benches to celebrate the life of HM Queen Elizabeth II. In future benches to celebrate Maghull's history e.g. Frank Hornby, Dr Rowlands etc.

RESOLVED that

- 1. Agreed to fund 11 Option B benches. Memorial benches to the late Queen**

2. Future benches to celebrate Maghull History

3. The report be noted

10

Budget 2023/24

The Town Clerk noted that the Budget for 2023/24 was on the agenda to allow Members to consider any new projects e.g. benches, work in Round Meade or to review existing projects. Proposals feed into Finance and General Purposes (F&GP) Committee. Expecting Council Tax base from Sefton in early December.

Members noted that costs are increasing e.g. no longer have benefit of red diesel. Increase in precept likely to meet costs of planned maintenance and works to parks. It was agreed that costs for benches and work in Round Meade should be included in the budget for F&GP.

RESOLVED that:

1. Draft budget to include benches and works in Round Meade


2. The report be noted

11

Chair's Report

The Chair thanked everyone for their contributions to the meeting.

CHAIR



12/7/23

