

Minutes of Amenities Committee Meeting Held Wednesday 15th November 2023 at 6:30 PM

Those present :

Chairman : Cllr G Birchall

Councillors : Cllr L Birchall, Cllr P Brougham, Cllr K Hughes, Cllr D Leatherbarrow, Cllr C Parker, Cllr J Sayers

Officers : A Mc Intyre, D Stephens

1 **Election of Chair and Vice Chair**

RESOLVED that Cllr G Birchall be elected as the Chair of the Amenities Committee for the rest of the municipal year.

2 **Apologies for Absence**

No apologies were received

3 **Declarations of Interest**

None received.

4 **Public Participation.**

None received.

5 **To Confirm the Minutes of the Last Meeting**

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 20th September 2023 were approved as a correct record.

6 **Budget 2024/25**

Members considered the detailed report relating to the proposed budget for 2024/25 which would be submitted to the Finance & General Purposes Committee for scrutiny before being referred to Full Council at their budget setting meeting.

The proposed budget emphasised the need to reflect on the changes to the estate during the financial year as well as the increases to staff costs as a result of the latest pay increases.

The parks needed to be kept up to standard and this was reflected in the proposed costs but did not allow for significant upgrades to be made to the park play equipment moving forward. Members were informed that the parks had not had individual upgrades apart from Glenn Park and KGV and Dodd's Park, in particular, needed some attention.

Members discussed the impact on the budget and the precept demand if additional improvements were made and the costs if the parks were kept at the current standard. It was the Council's ambition to work towards Green Flag status for the main parks in the town but this would need more investment.

Members thanked the officers for their hard work in producing the report.

RESOLVED that:

1. The proposed budget, as detailed in the report, be submitted to Finance & General Purposes Committee for comment;
2. The report be noted.

7 **PSPO Signage**

Members considered the report of the Amenities Manager which highlighted the

issues surrounding the effective management and enforcement of the Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) within Maghull parks and open spaces.

Issues highlighted included the signage in the parks which was not the same as the signage used by Sefton MBC. The Sefton signage used maps of their parks to assist park users in determining which was the appropriate area for dogs on lead and off lead. The Amenities Manager had produced maps which would assist the park users within Maghull. It was also noted that there had been numerous complaints from park users (dog owners and non dog owners) about the enforcement of the order and its unfairness.

Members noted the issues and were concerned that the maps produced were compliant with the PSPO's requirements which would, obviously, affect the enforcement of the Order.

RESOLVED that:

- 1. The maps be sent to Sefton Legal Services to check the compliance with the PSPO;**
- 2. The (compliant) maps be placed in South Meade and Dodd's Parks as a trial basis;**
- 3. An article be produced for the next Maghull Magazine explaining the maps and the PSPO;**
- 4. The report be noted.**

8

Health & Safety Update

Members received a Health & Safety Update from the Amenities Manager. The Council had recently undertaken a comprehensive Review with the aid of the Council's H&S consultants, Peninsula. The review had highlighted several aspects of the Council which required improvement. The list was considerable and would result in an increase of work load for the Amenities Manager, supported by the Clerk. However, it was imperative that the remedial works be completed as quickly as possible and this was part of the Council's journey in improving its Health and Safety profile across the board.

Members noted that work that had already taken place and endorsed the implementation plan which had been drawn up by the Amenities Manager.

It was also noted that the Finance & General Purposes Committee would also need oversight of the implementation plan as H&S overview was the purview of that Committee.

RESOLVED that:

- 1. The work undertaken by the Amenities Manager with regards to H&S be noted;**
- 2. The implementation plan and its progress since the review be noted;**
- 3. The report be noted.**

9

Covid Memorial

Members were informed that Sefton Council was currently working on a project to install covid memorials in the 5 township areas of Sefton. These areas are Bootle, Crosby, Formby, Maghull and Southport. The memorials would consist of a bench with a circle of trees around it, based within a green, open space within each

township area. The parks they have chosen for potential sites were based on being the main parks within their areas that attract a lot of visitors. To that end, Sefton would like MTC's approval to install a memorial within the rose garden at KGV.

members discussed the proposal and the other options for improvements to the Rose Garden which had been cleared but not replanted. Members thought that this would be an appropriate way for the pandemic and the difficulties everyone had suffered to be recognised and remembered.

RESOLVED that:

- 1. Permission was given for the Covid Memorial to be palced in the KGV Rose Garden (exact site to be determined);**
- 2. Costs for the project be financed by Sefton MBC;**
- 3. The report be noted.**

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Chair's Report

The Cahir thanked everyone for attending the meeting.

CHAIR

 17/4/24

