

**GREAT CORNARD PARISH COUNCIL**

Minutes of the Meeting of the **ART, SPORT & LEISURE COMMITTEE**

held in The Stevenson Centre at 7.15pm on Monday 25th April 2022

**Present:** Councillors M D Newman Chairman

Mrs M Bark A C Bavington

T J Keane S M Sheridan Mrs T E A Welsh Mrs J Wilson C G Wright

Council Administrator Miss E Skuce

**1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from Councillors Mrs C J Baker and K Graham.

**2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATION**

**NONE.**

**3. DECLARATIONS OF GIFTS AND HOSPITALITY**

Councillor Bavington declared a non-pecuniary interest in any matter relating to Thomas Gainsborough School as he volunteers at the school and a family member is employed by the Trust.

Councillor Young declared a non-pecuniary interest in any matter relating to Thomas Gainsborough School as he and a family member are employed by the Trust.

**4. ITEMS BROUGHT FORWARD – FOR NOTING**

Members reviewed and **NOTED** the Items Brought Forward List.

**5. TO REVIEW DRAFT TENDER DOCUMENTATION FOR THE REFURBISHMENT OF THE RECREATION GROUND PLAY AREA**

Members reviewed draft Tender documents in relation to the proposed refurbishment of the recreation ground play area. The Chairman explained that it had proved difficult to arrange a mutually convenient date for the working party to meet so Members of this Committee were being invited to give their views and comments on the documents in advance of the next working party meeting.

A Member raised concerns over the proposed location of the new ‘teen piece’ which they felt would be better situated next to the youth shelter on the other side of the recreation ground. Councillor Newman said that the idea was to have all the play equipment positioned close together so that The Stevenson Centre’s CCTV cameras could cover the whole area.

A Member was also concerned about its close proximity to the usual spot where the Scouts have their annual bonfire. Councillor Sheridan, who is also the Chairman of the Scouts, said that there had been no issues with the fire’s position up to this point and didn’t see a problem with a new piece of equipment being installed in the proposed location.

A Member asked whether the gates in the enclosed play area were wide enough to accommodate a wheelchair for the proposed accessible roundabout. Councillor Newman said that there was already an accessible swing within the play area but he would ask the Council Administrator to measure the width so that the information was available for the next working party meeting.

A Member was concerned over the potential noise disturbance to neighbouring properties. Councillor Bavington agreed with this concern but said that as the youth shelter had been on the recreation ground for some years, it was already usual for teens to gather in the area. Councillor Sheridan said that he didn’t want to be too restrictive in what children could and couldn’t do and the recreation ground was a good place to ‘let them be children’.

The Chairman thanked Members for their comments and said that they would be put before the working party at the next meeting for consideration. Members **AGREED** to ask the Council Administrator to arrange a working party in the coming days.

The next step is to finalise the Tender process before consulting with the public. The Council Manager had previously suggested the Parish Council set up a stall for this at the upcoming Jubilee Event on the recreation ground on the 4th June 2022 which Members **AGREED** was a good idea.

**6. TO REVIEW THE CIL APPLICATION FORM FOR THE ALLOTMENT CAR PARK RESURFACING WORKS**

The Parish Council is intending to apply to Babergh District Council for CIL funding to upgrade the car park at the Allotments. The application has to be submitted to Babergh by the 31st May 2022 so Members were invited to comment on the application form and the Council Manager’s suggested answers to the questions.

Members discussed the application and **AGREED** with the Council Manager’s suggested answers, with the exception of one addition to question 10 ‘Usage of the Current Infrastructure’. ‘Gainsborough Trail users’ should be added to the list of current users before the Council Manager submits the application form.

The Chairman explained that the timescale for this project was tight, given the deadline date for the application to be submitted and that the Council were hoping to receive quotations back by the 20th May. It was **AGREED** that if Members thought of anything else they would like to add to the application, to let the Council Manager know accordingly.

**7. TO RECEIVE A VERBAL UPDATE ON THE RESTORATION OF THE GREAT CORNARD CRICKET SQUARE**

The Chairman informed Members that he had been made aware from the Council Manager that the Chairman of Cornard United had spoken with Great Cornard Cricket Club’s ex-groundsman who had confirmed that they would be happy to take on the maintenance of the square but on a paid basis rather than as a volunteer.

A Member raised concerns over work starting this year with the pitch not being up to standard for anything other than school use until next year. The Member believed it would be a waste of public funds to have the area maintained for a year when it wasn’t going to be used. The Chairman said that it was the Council’s aim to get the pitch in a good condition so that the pupils of Thomas Gainsborough School could use it, and over the summer there may be a local group wanting to play cricket on it. Once the square was in good condition, it may attract a local team to play there.

As Chairman of the Policy and Resources Committee, Councillor Bavington stated that the Council had previously set aside a sum of £300 for cricket square maintenance and that it should be used for that purpose. Any expenditure above that should be brought back to the Committee.

A Member asked what the hourly rate would be and who would be responsible for paying the new contractor to maintain the square. Councillor Newman said there was a verbal agreement with TGS that they would cover the costs. It was **AGREED** for the Council Manager to look into the arrangement further, obtain a written agreement with the school and present to a future meeting, before any maintenance works begin.

Councillor Mrs Wilson stated that on a recent dog walk, she saw lots of children playing on the square and dogs being allowed to foul there. The ropes installed to protect the square had been pulled down on one side. It was **AGREED** that the Council Administrator would ask the Community Wardens to check the ropes and reinstall if necessary.

Councillor Bavington said that once the new Lease had been agreed with Cornard Dynamos, it would commit the Club to ensuring that their members do not use the square. **AGREED.**

**8. TO RECEIVE A VERBAL UPDATE FROM THE QUEEN’S JUBILEE WORKING PARTY**

The Chairman provided an update to Members on the current organisation of

the jubilee event being held on Saturday 4th June on the Recreation Ground. The fire service had been invited but Councillor Newman was waiting for them to respond. Commemorative mugs and postcards, together with 400 meters of bunting had been ordered and County Councillor Beer had submitted a request for £1,500 towards the cost of postcards and bouncy castle hire. Councillor Young advised that he had arranged first aid cover for the event and that he had spoken with local estate agents, Fenn Wright, about advertising boards being placed around the village to promote the event.

The Chairman invited comments from Members on the poster for the event that had been created by Councillor Mrs Wilson’s husband. Members requested a number of amendments to be made and Councillor Mrs Wilson agreed that she would arrange for those to be made and for the poster to be recirculated.

**9. APPLICATION FOR A MEMORIAL BENCH ON THE RECREATION GROUND**

Members reviewed an application from a local resident for a memorial bench to be installed on the Recreation Ground just outside the enclosed play area.

Members agreed to **RECOMMEND** to Full Council that permission be granted to install a memorial bench along the fence line of the enclosed play area on the Recreation Ground.

**Meeting closed at 7:55pm**