

**GREAT CORNARD PARISH COUNCIL**

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

held in The Stevenson Centre at 7:15pm on Monday 18th December 2023

**Present:** Councillors Cllr David Young **Chair**

Cllr Tony Bavington Cllr Sharon Bowman

Cllr Tim Hurst Cllr Jane Wakeman Cllr Colin Wright

Council Administrator Miss E Skuce

Council Administrator Mrs S Kubat

Council Manager Mrs N Tamlyn

1. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from Cllrs Kevin Graham, Melanie Keane and Tom Keane.

Cllr Judith Wilson did not attend the meeting.

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

**NONE.**

**3. DECLARATIONS OF GIFTS AND HOSPITALITY**

**NONE.**

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

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

**5. CORRESPONDENCE**

1. **Babergh District Council: Call for Land for Nature Recovery**

Members reviewed correspondence from Babergh District Council which provided details of a new Call for Land for Nature Recovery scheme asking for land owners to consider supporting nature recovery across the district by using their land to plant trees, hedges and wildflower meadows.

Cllrs Bowman and Wright, who are involved with the Cornard Wildlife and Environment Group stated that the Group had been approached by the Bures Road, Road Safety Group (BRRSG) with a view to using the grass verge at the junction of Head Lane and Bures Road for planting. BRRSG’s aim was to stop vehicles being parked on the grass and it was hoped this scheme would help with that. The Wildlife and Environment Group will take this idea forward separately with the Chair of the BRRSG as the land is owned by Suffolk County Council.

A Member expressed concern over the height of anything planted on that particular grass verge as it may affect the visibility splay for drivers.

A Member stated that although they do not support vehicles parking on the grass, if parking is limited in this particular area, it may affect the custom of the Motor Spares shop.

It was suggested that the Country Park could be used for planting, especially trees, and it was **AGREED** for the Council Administrator to liaise with Sudbury Common Lands Charity, who manage the Park on behalf of the Council, to obtain their advice in the first instance and bring any further developments back to the Committee at a later date.

1. **Suffolk Tree Warden Network: Tree Warden Registration**

Members reviewed correspondence from the Suffolk Tree Warden Network which highlights the need for anybody using the title of Tree Warden, to be registered as a member of the Tree Council’s local tree warden network.

Members discussed whether the Parish Council needed a Member to be ‘Tree Warden’ or whether such matters could be delegated to local groups, such as Cornard Environment and Wildlife Group for example.

It was agreed to **RECOMMEND** to Full Council that it discusses whether the Council has a need for an official Tree Warden registered to the local tree warden network, or whether Cllr Bark, who is the Council’s current Tree Warden, could act as a ‘post box’ to refer matters to Cornard Environment and Wildlife Group.

**6. TO RECEIVE AN UPATE ON THE RECREATION GROUND PLAY AREA PROJECT**

Members reviewed and **NOTED** photographs of the completed project which saw the replacement of aging toddler equipment, replacement safety surfacing and new equipment installed on the recreation ground and enclosed play area **(see Appendix A).** The Chair stated that it was nice to see people using the new equipment already.

The Council Administrator confirmed that the relevant documents had been sent to Babergh District Council to enable them to pay over the agreed Section 106 sum of £57,621.71 towards the total cost of the project. **NOTED.**

A Member asked whether the Parish Council was planning to have an official ‘reveal/opening’ for the new equipment. A press release and article for Cornard News were suggested and it was **AGREED** for the Council Administrator to prepare a report for both.

It was also suggested that an opening could be held in Spring 2024 and it was agreed to RECOMMEND to Full Council that it considers the arrangements for the event.

**Meeting closed at 7:38pm**

**APPENDIX A**

**Newly installed play equipment on the Recreation Ground**

A playground with a slide

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