

**GREAT CORNARD PARISH COUNCIL**

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

held in The Stevenson Centre at 7.23pm on Monday 27th February 2023

**Present:** Councillors Mrs T E A Welsh **Chair**

Mrs C J Baker Mrs M Bark

A C Bavington T J Keane

S M Sheridan C G Wright

D Young

Council Manager Mrs N Tamlyn

Council Administrator Miss E Skuce

**1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from Councillor M D Newman.

Councillor Mrs Wilson did not attend the meeting.

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

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.

**3. DECLARATIONS OF GIFTS AND HOSPITALITY**

**NONE.**

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

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

**5. CORRESPONDENCE**

**a) Huggy Cuggles: Request to Use the Country Park**

Members reviewed an application received from Huggy Cuggles to use the Country Park for regular toddler and baby sessions, together with an Easter Egg hunt on Easter Sunday morning. Members **NOTED** that Huggy Cuggles were given permission for similar sessions last year.

Sudbury Common Lands Charity had been consulted on the application and had no objection to the regular sessions but stated that in relation to the Easter Egg hunt, the applicant would need to remove all items from the Country Park to avoid them ending up as litter.

Members agreed that while they had no objection to the application for regular sessions, the application was open ended and it would be prudent to review the arrangement with Huggy Cuggles at the time of the October half term.

Members **AGREED** to grant permission to Huggy Cuggles to use the Country Park for regular toddler and baby sessions until October half term when the arrangement would be reviewed by the Parish Council.

Members also **AGREED** to grant permission for Huggy Cuggles to use the Country Park on Easter Sunday morning to hold an Easter Egg hunt with the understanding that all items are removed to avoid littering.

**AGREED** for the Council Manager to respond to the applicant accordingly.

**6. TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON THE PUBLIC INQUIRY FOR CRAB LANE**

Members reviewed correspondence from the Planning Inspectorate which offered a date for the Public Inquiry of 19th September 2023. The Council Manager explained that the Hall at The Stevenson Centre had been offered as a venue for the Inquiry and that quotations had been sought in the region of £300 for the hire of a public address system which may be required. The Council Manager confirmed that Suffolk County Council will bear the cost of the Inquiry as the Order making authority. **NOTED.**

**7. TO RECEIVE A VERBAL UPDATE ON THE RECREATION GROUND PLAY AREA TENDER AND TO ARRANGE A RECREATION GROUND WORKING PARTY MEETING**

The Council Manager explained that the deadline for Tender submissions, which was extended by two weeks to the 24th February 2023, had passed and the Parish Council had received three submissions which remain confidential and unopened in line with the Council’s Procurement Policy. Babergh District Council had confirmed that Section 106 monies of £51,901.76 were available, of which £13,626.78 expires in December 2023 but the Parish Council would still need to submit a fund application.

It was **AGREED** for the Council Manager to arrange a meeting for Members to attend the Council offices as soon as possible to open the Tender submissions and a subsequent meeting of the Recreation Ground Working Party to consider all submissions received.

**8. TO RECEIVE A VERBAL REPORT ON THE ALLOTMENT CAR PARK FOLLOWING A MEETING WITH THE CONTRACTOR ON WEDNESDAY 22ND FEBRUARY 2023**

The Council Manager explained that she and Councillor Wright had met with Colne Contracts on Wednesday 22nd February 2023 to review the resurfacing work carried out at the Allotment Car Park. The meeting was arranged to review the Hoggin path and concerns about possible puddling in the far corner of the car park by the hedge.

Colne Contracts had confirmed that following some rain fall, the Hoggin path had ‘settled’ and that it looked much better now. Members **AGREED** to continue to monitor the condition of the path.

It was noted that the French drain did not extend to the far end of the car park and it was **AGREED** to instruct Colne Contracts to extend the drain with no additional charge to the Council.

The Council Manager informed Members that unfortunately, two vehicles had driven over the boundary edge along the hedge line, and their front wheels had become stuck in the French drain. Following a number of options being considered, it was thought that a yellow warning line along the length of the edging would be the best option. Councillor Newman, as Chair of the Art, Sports and Leisure Committee, had been consulted on the matter and he had agreed with this preferred option.

Members agreed to **RECOMMEND** to Full Council to install a thick yellow line marking along the length of the boundary line as a warning to drivers and arrange for signs to be installed, advising users that the car park is in the ownership of the Parish Council and that vehicles are left in the car park at the owners risk.

The costs to be researched by the Council Manager and if necessary, the Council Chairman to sign an action out of meeting to instruct the works as soon as possible.

Members discussed the need for a procedure to sign off contracts in future and **AGREED** for the Council Manager to review the Council’s Procurement Policy and check whether it includes a procedure to sign off future projects and if not, to bring the matter back to Committee.

**Meeting closed at 7:40pm**