

**GREAT CORNARD PARISH COUNCIL**

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

held in The Stevenson Centre at 7.30pm on Monday 26th September 2022

**Present:** Councillors M D Newman **Chairman**

Mrs M Bark A C Bavington 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 Councillors T J Keane, Mrs C J Baker, Mrs T E A Welsh and Mrs J Wilson.

**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**

1. **Pot Kiln School: Forest School**

Members reviewed correspondence from Pot Kiln School which was requesting the Council’s permission to restart holding a Forest School at Shawlands Wood LNR. Whilst Members were in favour of allowing the school to use the woods for their Forest School, it was felt important that they should be reminded that the woods are to be left as they are found and that wildlife should not be disturbed. **AGREED** for the Council Manager to respond to Pot Kiln School accordingly.

**6. TO CONSIDER LOCATIONS FOR NEW BENCHES THROUGHOUT THE VILLAGE TO COMMEMORATE THE QUEEN’S PLATINUM JUBILEE**

Over the Summer, Councillors had been asked to consider suitable locations for new benches throughout the village. Members reviewed a list of suggested locations and agreed that the main arterial roads throughout Great Cornard would be good locations to start with as they are longer routes and the benches would provide rest stops for walkers. Additional locations were added to the suggested list and attached at **Appendix A.**

It was **NOTED** that the matter would be brought back to the Development and Planning Committee for Members to prioritise locations and to progress the matter further.

**7. TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON THE BADGERS IN THE COUNTRY PARK**

Members reviewed correspondence from Sgt Brian Calver from the Neighbourhood Partnership Team, which was in response to the Council’s request for advice on the badgers. Sgt Calver had suggested that a local badger group might want to monitor the situation and also the possibility of getting the Police Cadets involved. There was also correspondence from a local person interested in the badgers and had a history of working with badgers in Essex. They had suggested that a rural style fence was installed around the badger setts but that Natural England may need to be contacted with regards to a license.

Nick Shimwell, the Ranger for Sudbury Common Lands Charity had advised that he thought it best to monitor the situation for the time being as instances of disturbance have been low in recent weeks.

It was **AGREED** to form a working group that could draw up a plan of education and actively engage with local schools. The Council Manager to contact interested parties, such as Sudbury Common Lands Charity, local wildlife experts and the Police.

**8. TO CONSIDER A MEMBER’S MOTION TO INSTALL A BEACON ON THE RECREATION GROUND (REFERRED FROM FULL COUNCIL MEETING ON 12TH SEPTEMBER 2022)**

Members considered a Motion to install a Beacon on the recreation ground at The Stevenson Centre, and discussed whether there was a modern purpose for a Beacon, given the King’s Coronation is the only celebration which is likely to take place in the near future. It was also considered quite reasonable for the Council to co-operate with Sudbury Town Council on such occasions. Although the cost of a Beacon was not known, a Member confirmed that County Councillor Beer had offered to fund the project. Members went on to discuss whether the Recreation Ground was a suitable location as a Beacon would be best placed somewhere high and ideally in the centre of the Village. Members agreed to **RECOMMEND** to Full Council to not support the Motion.

**9. TO RECEIVE A VERBAL UPDATE ON THE GAINSBOROUGH TRAIL REPLACEMENT INTERPRETATION BOARD.**

The Council Manager advised Members that the replacement board had been received and installed at the Country Park by the Community Wardens. **NOTED.** Agreed to remove from the Items Brought Forward List.

**10. TO RECEIVE THE NOTES OF THE SECURITY IMPROVEMENT WORKING PARTY MEETING**

Members reviewed the notes from the Security Improvement working party **(see Appendix B).** The working party had been formed as a result of the recent arrival of a travelling community on the Recreation Ground and then subsequently at the Country Park, with a view to reviewing the security at Council owned land, starting with the recreation ground.

The working party had made the following recommendations in relation to the recreation ground:-

1. To permanently remove the entrance by the old Diary Stores;
2. To replace the old wooden posts with taller thicker oak posts along the entire length of the approach road;
3. To install a substantial metal gate at the entrance adjacent to The Stevenson Centre.
4. Upgrade the camera on the corner of the Centre and ensure it covers the entrance to the Recreation Ground and the entire Approach Road;

Members discussed the recommendations and **AGREED** to options 1,3 and 4 above but in relation to option 2, it was suggested that any existing posts that could be refurbished, should be re-used in place of new ones in order to try and minimise overall costs. A Member also suggested that an older sapling tree could be planted along the existing tree line where the drop down bollards currently are.

It was also **AGREED** that the Council Manager would obtain quotations for the required works and report back at a future meeting of the working party.

**Meeting closed at 8:06pm**

**APPENDIX A**

**List of suggested locations for commemorative benches**

Main arterial roads

* Bures Road
* Shawlands Avenue
* Canhams Road
* Head Lane
* Newton Road
* Maldon Court leading to Cats Lane via Maldon Grey PH
* Pot Kiln Road
* Cats Lane (either side)
* Green by play equipment at Maldon Court (owned by SCC/BDC)
* Village Green away from the play area – perhaps by the Village sign
* Green on Queensway (Pot Kiln Road end) (owned by SCC/BDC)
* Green opposite the shops at Poplar Road (near bus stop) (owned by SCC/BDC)
* By the river at Dove House Meadow (in private ownership)
* Land north east of Shawlands Avenue (highest point of the Great Cornard Walk)
* Green adjacent to Kings Head PH (owned by SCC/BDC)

**APPENDIX B**

**Notes from the Security Improvement Working Party meeting at 5pm on Wednesday 23rd September at The Stevenson Centre.**

Attendees: Councillors Mr T Keane Chairman

Mr M Newman Mrs P White

Apologies Mr A C Bavington

Councillors Mr D Young and Mr K Graham did not attend.

The Chairman advised that the main purpose of the working party was to review the security of all Council owned land following the recent traveller incursion on the Recreation Ground and Country Park, and decide how best to protect the sites.

Security to be reviewed at the following sites:

* Recreation Ground and The Stevenson Centre Car Park
* Country Park and the Allotment Car Park
* Stacey Ardley
* Village Green
* Blackhouse Lane Sports Fields and the Country Park Car Park

Members agreed to address the security of the Recreation Ground first and review all other sites at its next meeting.

The Council Manager advised that the Centre had an important booking over the weekend of the 1st October which required access to the Recreation Ground.

Members discussed the ongoing cost of hiring the concrete blocks, as well as the need to gain access to cut the grass and the forthcoming firework display. It was subsequently agreed to remove the blocks ASAP and put the following actions in place to ensure the sites short term security:-

1. Replace the padlocks on the dropdown bollards and ensure they are properly secured;
2. Replace the chain on the main entrance and install two new padlocks the same make and model as used at the Country Park;
3. Contact the Council’s CCTV contractor to provide a quotation to upgrade the camera on the corner of the Centre and ensure it covers the entrance to the Recreation Ground and the entire Approach Road;
4. Review and upgrade the padlocks at all Council’s site entrances.

Members discussed the proposal to install a fence along the entire length of the Approach Road and reviewed the different options available in a fencing catalogue. Members were concerned that the installation of a fence would alter the appearance of the Recreation Ground and agreed to improve security by **RECOMMENDING** the following actions to the Council:-

* + - 1. To permanently remove the entrance by the old Diary Stores;
      2. To replace the old wooden posts with taller thicker oak posts along the entire length of the approach road;
      3. To install a substantial metal gate at the entrance adjacent to The Stevenson Centre.

Councillor Newman confirmed that he would be willing to approve the use of his District Councillor Locality Fund and would speak to Councillors Beer and Barrett on the matter as well.