

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE ENVIRONMENT AND RECREATION
COMMITTEE HELD ON TUESDAY 12th MARCH 2024 AT 7.30PM
IN THE TOWN HALL, MARKET SQUARE, HIGHAM FERRERS**

PRESENT:

Cllr S Prosser (Chairman)
Cllr C P O'Rourke
Cllr N Brown
Cllr Mrs P H Whiting
Cllr P McCann
Cllr G Kelly
Cllr A M T Reading (substitute for Cllr H L Jackson)
Mrs E M Arrow (Assistant Clerk)

2 members of the public

1. **APOLOGIES**

Cllr H L Jackson

2. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None.

3. **MINUTES**

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 14th November 2023 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a true and correct record.

4. **PUBLIC FORUM**

A member of the public requests that the council reviews the signage at the dogs off lead area regarding the 'rules of use'. Issues have occurred recently with the behaviour of some regular users of the space and a suggestion is made that the rules need to be revised. A member of the public reports that the litter issue on the Greenway is increasing and believes more signage is needed to deter users from dropping litter.

5. **CLERKS REPORT**

RESOLVED:

That the Clerk's Report is received and noted.

6. **BIODIVERSITY REPORT**

RESOLVED:

That the Model Biodiversity Policy is sent to the Policy and Resources Committee for consideration, with the following suggestion/amendment:

That where the Draft Model Action Plan states that we should discourage floodlighting, we should also explore the use of 'red light' in any future council implementation of streetlighting to better protect nocturnal animals such as bats.

7. **REVIEW OF THE FREE USE OF THE PAVILION**

7.1. **RESOLVED:**

That AK Fitness Training and the Book Exchange are permitted to continue free use of the Sports Pavilion.

7.2. **RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND:**

That the conditions of hire when hire charges have been waived be approved.

8. **CONTAINER AT RIVERSIDE PARK**

8.1. **RESOLVED:**

That the report regarding the placing of a container at Riverside Park be received and noted, and that the following suggestions are made regarding the placing of the container:

- That the council's preference is that the container is green to better blend into the landscape.
- That effort is made with trellis/climbing plants etc to screen the container from view and better blend it into the landscape.

9. **LAND TO THE FRONT OF HENRY CHICHELE PRIMARY SCHOOL**

RESOLVED:

That quotes are sought for establishing a 'community garden' with raised beds, benches and a medium sized tree as a centre piece, with the longer term aim to ask the school if they would like to get involved in looking after the garden with the pupils.

10. **CEMETERY – USAGE OF REMAINING GRAVE SPACE**

RESOLVED:

That in an effort to ensure the grave spaces that remain in the cemetery are utilised most efficiently and the cremated remains spaces are used for ashes-only interments, an addition is made to section 8 of our Cemetery Rules and Regulations to state the following:

'Where the purchaser intends to use a burial plot for only cremated remains interments or intends the first interment in a plot to be only cremated remains, only designated cremated remains plots are permitted to be purchased'.

11. **PARISH PATHS WARDEN REPORTS**

RESOLVED:

That the Parish Paths Warden reports are received and noted with thanks to Marion Darnell.

12. **ITEMS TO REPORT**

Cllr N Brown has had a request from a property bordering the dogs off lead area enquiring as to whether we can put a time limit on use of the area. This request is made due to some users arriving very early in the morning, especially at the weekend, and disturbing neighbouring properties.

13. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

14th May 2024

Chairman

Date