

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

PRESENT:

Cllr C O'Rourke (Chairman)
Cllr Mrs P H Whiting
Cllr V K Paul
Cllr G Kelly
Cllr P Tomas
Cllr N Brown (as substitute)
Miss A Schofield (Town Clerk)
Mrs E M Arrow (Assistant Clerk)

1 member of the public

1. **APOLOGIES**

Cllr H L Jackson, Cllr P McCann

2. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Cllr V K Paul – item 8 – Cllr Paul is raising money to fund this project.
Cllr P H Whiting – item 9 – family member attends the school in question.

3. **MINUTES**

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 10th September 2024 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a true and correct record.

4. **PUBLIC FORUM**

None.

5. **RIVERSIDE PARK ECOLOGICAL MANAGEMENT PLAN**

RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND:

- (i) That at least 8 bat boxes, 8 bird boxes, 2 hedgehog houses and 4 bee and insect houses be installed at Riverside Park at the locations suggested within the Landscape and Ecological Management Plan. Cost £1110 to be met from 340/4844 Riverside Park.
- (ii) That volunteers and/or staff create 2 hibernacula. That a budget of £250 be set for any materials required that cannot be located from the council's own landholding. Cost to be met from 340/4844 Riverside Park.

RESOLVED:

- (iii) That the council investigate the process, including associated costs, for the recommendation from the plan for the enhancement of shrub with native species and some regeneration of woodland.

6. **ROMAN WAY GRASS VERGES**

RESOLVED:

That no posts or bollards be installed on the grass verge area at Roman Way to prevent vehicles parking and no further action is to be taken at this time.

7. **SKATEPARK REPAIR PROJECT**

RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND:

That the remodelling work be undertaken with procurement by means of contract. That

the contract specification include:-

- Design based on the sketch plans
- Flexibility to allow companies to come forward with their best solution for the finish to the shallower soil banking based on our detailed report of the problems experienced since construction.
- A maximum budget of £20,000 is applied to control expenditure.

That the cost of the project to be met from budget allocation 2025/26.

8. PLAY EQUIPMENT AT SAFFRON ROAD RECREATION GROUND

To consider a proposal from Councillor Vijay Paul

- 8.1. *That the Council adopt a policy that any, and all, future pieces of play equipment can be 'accessed by all abilities' on a new for old basis.*
- 8.2. *That the Council reconsider placing 1-2 pieces of new play equipment at Saffron Road play area.*
- 8.3. *That the new play equipment will either be installed to replace some old equipment, which could be removed, or to increase the enclosed play area to allow for more space to install the equipment.*
- 8.4. *That the Council fund at least 50% of the procurement and installation of the play equipment and take on the maintenance of the same.*

Cllr Vijay Paul withdrew items 8.1.to 8.4.

RESOLVED:

That a meeting is set up with the organisers of the fundraiser to discuss their project to better facilitate consideration of Councillor Vijay Paul's proposal at a future date.

9. LAND TO THE FRONT OF HENRY CHICHELE SCHOOL

RESOLVED:

That enquiry be made about the cost and feasibility of digging out the hardcore surface and turfing/seeding the area, with the idea that wildflower planting and benches can be explored as a future possibility.

**10. PAINTING OF THE SPRINGERS, SAFFRON ROAD RECREATION GROUND
RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND:**

That the 3 springers at Saffron Road play area be repainted at a cost of £1182.75.

**11. HIGH PRESSURE WASHING AND MOSS TREATMENTS, TENNIS COURTS
AND MUGA**

RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND:

That a 3-year contract to cover years 2025-2027 is entered into at a cost of £1495pa for high pressure washing and moss treatment of both the tennis courts and the MUGA.

12. PARISH PATHS WARDEN REPORT

RESOLVED:

That the Parish Paths Warden report is received and noted with thanks to Marion Darnell.

13. ITEMS TO REPORT

None.

14. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

14th January 2025

Chairman

Date