

THE PARISH COUNCIL OF NEWLANDS

MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL AMENITIES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 18th APRIL 2024 AT NEWLANDS COMMUNITY HALL, NEWLANDS AVENUE, WATERLOOVILLE, HAMPSHIRE, PO7 3BX COMMENCING AT 7.00pm

Members: Cllr M Read (Chairman) (P) Cllr A Kirby (P)
Cllr L Price (P) Cllr P Bennett (P)

Also present, Cllr D Crichton - Chairman of the council, Karen Seear - Clerk to the Council.

104/24A Apologies: All Councillors of the Committee present.

105/24A Declarations of Interest: The Chairman declared an interest as he is a Ward member for Winchester City Council, Cllr Bennett declared an interest as she is Chair of the Community Group and Cllr Kirby declared an interest as he is Chair of the WACA board of Trustees.

106/24A Proposed Adoption of Open Space: The Chairman gave an explanation of the current offer which had been received by the Parish Council from WCC. WCC are offering a partial adoption of open space land which includes the play-area and an area open space grass area. The Chairman spoke about a previous arson attack to the play-area which occurred last Summer, the area had recently been able to almost fully open, it meant that the play-area had been out of use over the summer holidays. All repairs pending one have been completed. The council are considering installing safety fencing once they receive ownership. The Warden has a second quote for this work, and the fencing style they are quoting for is the same style that Grainger have used elsewhere in the development. The Warden also reported that a bearing had gone on the roundabout. **NOTED.** The Chairman stated that WCC should arrange repairs of this. He also queried work to remove the plastic tree sleeves, had this been carried out satisfactorily?

Cllr Kirby asked two questions, firstly, whether the clerk and the Parish Warden felt they were happy that the council was in good position to adopt the land? Secondly, what monies will be received with the land? The clerk spoke about several snagging issues which are still outstanding, as well as some correspondence received from Councillor Berry, including flooding to the footpath and over hanging trees. It was also noted that once this land is received the council will be in a position to finally install the youth shelter. Checks need to be made to identify where the council are with regards to this. **NOTED.** The RFO has not yet opened an additional bank account in order to receive the first tranche of money. This will be opened in readiness for the funds. It was proposed that the Parish Council accept the offer in principle. Clarification is required as to whether the footpath is being passed over to the council or not. If it is to be the council's responsibility then WCC will be instructed to make the path good or add to the list of snagging items.

It was suggested that the council engage the solicitor to ensure readiness. A calculation of the commuted sum is to be provided. The details of the youth shelter are required. Maintenance contract information is needed. It has previously been decided that the council will continue with WCC's current contractors, ID Verde, initially. A document which clearly shows the land to be transferred to be produced and signed. **NOTED.**

How to prevent vandalism to the play area was discussed. The council has previously considered CCTV but the practicalities surrounding this are difficult to manage. A report from Cllr Bennett's husband regarding this matter may be available for the council. The council's insurance premium will increase due to added level of cover required for the

ownership of the play area. Regular play-inspections of the equipment will need to be carried out. **NOTED.**

Cllr Crichton mentioned that additional staff may be required. This should be considered by Full Council. The Chairman had written a report for the Parish Assembly, this is to be circulated to all members. Cllr Bennett suggested an in-depth look at the sewers on the path due to the flooding to the bottom of the pathway. Cllr Crichton stated that clarification is needed regarding ownership of the Old Park Farm stream. It is thought that there cannot be any sewerage on the pathway as concerns had been raised over this. Cllr Kirby thought that the council could spend money on rectifying the dip to the pathway. The greenway will be adopted by Hampshire Highways.

It was UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED that Newlands Parish Council should begin to engage with Winchester City Council to start adoption procedures, but not to adopt areas without a current, valid playground safety inspection, all works completed satisfactorily, to trees, plastic sleeves removed, zip wire repaired etc. and the agreement of the commuted sum to be received. The clerk was asked to contact WCC to inform them of this.

The meeting closed at 7.26pm.

The next meeting of the Amenities Committee will be held on 25th April 2024.

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