

**REPORT OF THE MEETING OF THE AMENITIES COMMITTEE OF BUNTINGFORD TOWN COUNCIL
HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, MANOR HOUSE, BUNTINGFORD ON 3TH OCTOBER 2024 AT
7:00 PM.**

Membership: Councillors S. Bull, Mrs J. Danagher M. Furness, Mrs P. Furness (Chairman), K. Harrington, P. Ricketts & D. Wallace.

Present: Councillors Mrs P. Furness, Mrs J. Danagher, P. Ricketts, M. Furness & K. Harrington (19:06).

Officers in attendance: J. Jones (Town Clerk) & A. Georgiou (Admin Assistant)

195. TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.

Apologies from Councillors Bull and Wallace.

196. TO RECEIVE MEMBERS DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST.

No declarations.

197. TO RECEIVE A REPORT AND UPDATE FROM THE CHAIRMAN.

The Chairman stated that she had nothing specific to report.

198. TO APPROVE AS A TRUE RECORD AND AUTHORISE THE CHAIRMAN TO SIGN THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE AMENITIES COMMITTEE HELD ON 5TH SEPTEMBER 2024.

Following a proposal, second and a unanimous vote it was

RESOLVED

That the minutes are a true record and the Chairman was authorised to sign them.

199. ACTIONS FROM 5TH SEPTEMBER 2024 MINUTES.

a. M. Furness to liaise with Cricket Club regarding varnishing benches.

The Cricket Club have agreed to re-varnish the benches at Norfolk Road, the office are awaiting confirmation of what equipment is needed.

b. Office to write to grass cutting contractor

The Clerk wrote to the grass cutting contractor but has not received a reply.

K. Harrington entered the meeting (19:06)

c. Clerk to contact cemetery maintenance contractor to discuss daffodils.

The office have not contacted the cemetery maintenance contractor as the contract has only just been renewed. It was suggested that a meeting on site may be beneficial to discuss potential locations for planting.

d. Councillor Harrington / Ricketts to investigate remembrance trees for cemetery.

Councillor Harrington spoke to Majestic Trees to enquire what type of tree to use. It was suggested that either cherry or birch trees are used. Councillor Harrington is still awaiting a list of trees and prices. It was suggested that cherry trees would be nice, but Council would need to bear in mind that there will be a lot of blossom.

It was suggested that more disease resistant variants should be used.

Councillor Harrington agreed to investigate other companies to provide cherry trees.

200. LAYSTON COURT GARDENS - TO DISCUSS ISSUES RELATING TO LAYSTON COURT GARDENS INCLUDING CONSIDERATION OF REQUEST FOR MEMORIAL BENCH AND TREE.

It was suggested that memorial trees could be planted at Norfolk Road Playing Field as there is no more room for trees and benches in Layston Gardens.

It was noted that the person who the bench and tree would be in memory of, was heavily involved in the River Rib project and it was suggested to them that the Bovis Amenity Land could be an option in the future. It was also suggested that the wildlife area at Hare Street Road could be an option once Capel

Manor start work there.

It was reported that the Clerk has instructed a solicitor to begin the process of purchasing the gardens from East Herts District Council.

201. NORFOLK ROAD - TO DISCUSS ISSUES RELATING TO THE NORFOLK ROAD PAVILION, SKATE RAMPS, MUGA AND ALL OTHER ISSUES RELATING TO NORFOLK ROAD PLAYING FIELD.

It was reported that the new roller shutters are being installed on the 15th October.

There is no further update on the Youth Club using the facility.

It was reported that the playing fields are still very heavily used.

A quote had been received for MUGA maintenance. The Clerk reported that the income from the MUGA in the next financial year is expected to be around £10,000. It was suggested that the MUGA is very well used and the surface should be looked after. The quote was £1995 for four visits per year and £2495 for six visits per year.

Following a proposal, second and a unanimous vote it was

RESOLVED

That this Council accept a quote of £2495 Replay Maintenance for six maintenance visits per year at the MUGA.

It was reported that three saplings were planted along the path from Bowling Green Lane to Greenways. One has completely gone and the other two need looking at. It was suggested that more mature trees are planted in the same area. There were concerns that slightly more mature trees come at a significant cost.

Councillor Ricketts agreed to investigate what types of trees should be planted and the associated cost. It was suggested that if the Council are looking at planting trees in multiple locations it may be possible to make a deal with a local company. It was suggested a company could come and inspect how many trees would be a good amount to plant in each area. Councillor Ricketts and Harrington agreed to investigate.

202. SWCC - TO DISCUSS ISSUES RELATING TO THE SWCC GROUNDS, PITCHES AND PLAYGROUNDS INCLUDING UPDATE ON VANDALISM TO PLAYGROUND.

It was reported that the field is extremely well used.

It was suggested that it would be a good idea to look at the possibility of installing floodlights to enable evening football games / training or other use, it was suggested that S106 money could be used for this. It was agreed that this project would need more investigating, and can be discussed at the next S106 meeting.

It was reported that following the fire, the new playground equipment has been ordered and is awaiting delivery and installation.

203. HARE STREET ROAD PLAYING FIELD - TO DISCUSS ISSUES RELATING TO FIELD, PLAYGROUND AND WILDLIFE AREA.

It was reported that Capel Manor College should be starting work to the wildlife area this month.

It was reported that Herts County Council currently have grant funding of up to £3,000 available for nature improvement works. The office agreed to look into the closing date for the grant.

The vehicular access issue is ongoing with solicitors.

204. BOVIS AMENITY LAND - TO DISCUSS ISSUES RELATING TO ALL AREAS OF THE AMENITY LAND.

There is still no start date for the River Rib work, the Council are still awaiting surveys.

205. LAYSTON CEMETERY - TO DISCUSS AND CONSIDER ANY ISSUES RELATING TO LAYSTON CEMETERY.

It was suggested that the Council consider installing a living arch somewhere in the cemetery, or in the hedge gaps to the old churchyard. It was suggested that it is a nice idea, however there are a number

of ongoing projects at the moments that should be cleared before looking into this.

206. HARE STREET ROAD GARDENERS ASSOCIATION - UPDATE.

It was reported that there had recently been a break in at the allotments, all but three sheds had been broken into. It was noted that the Council are responsible for the fence, the new fence has been ordered and is due to be installed soon.

The Gardener's Association AGM is coming up soon, a new Chairman will be elected.

It was noted that this is the first break in in eight years.

207. TO HIGHLIGHT ANY ISSUES OF CONCERN AROUND THE TOWN.

It was reported that the BTC Planning Committee had in the past highlighted concerns to what was thought to be common land when looking at a planning application in close proximity. At a more recent meeting with another application at the same property, the committee did not highlight any concerns to the land. It was suggested that the Planning Committee should have picked this up and requested that the land was brought back to its original state following the works. It was reported that the land was re-grassed after the first planning application, but deteriorated again.

It was suggested that as the land has now been confirmed to be Highways land, Highways should write to the resident asking them to re-instate the land, or Highways should re-instate the land itself.

It was reported that the High Street looks nice following recent street furniture painting.

Councillor Mrs. Danagher reported that she has been invited to install a piece of the town mosaic that Buntingford Live are working on.

It was reported that a resident on the High Street has agreed to give a donation towards High Street improvements.

208. TO RECEIVE A REPORT FROM MEMBERS OF THE RIVER RIB RESTORATION GROUP.

Not present.

209. TO RECEIVE A REPORT FROM THE S106 OUTDOOR SPORTS FACILITIES WORKING PARTY AND RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE WORKING PARTY.

There has been no meeting for some time.

The East Hers officer in liaison with the Town Clerk will be sending a new updated S106 spreadsheet soon.

Discussion turned to the Cougars S106 application for a new changing room at London Road Playing Field, which the Clerk has been doing on their behalf. It was suggested that it is taking up too much time and the Cougars should do the application and relevant planning consents themselves.

210. TO INVITE MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC TO ADDRESS THE MEETING.

None present.

Meeting closed 20:20

Next scheduled meeting of the Amenities Committee Thursday 7th November 2024 7.00pm.

Actions to be taken

K. Harrington to investigate cherry trees at cemetery.

P. Ricketts to investigate trees for Norfolk Road Playing Field.

P. Ricketts and K. Harrington to find tree suppliers to investigate how many trees can be planted at NRPF and Cemetery.

A. Georgiou to investigate Herts CC nature grant.