

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE PUBLIC LAND & OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE HELD ON  
15 MARCH 2016 AT THE OFFICES OF BIGGLESWADE TOWN COUNCIL, THE OLD COURT HOUSE,  
SAFFRON ROAD, BIGGLESWADE**

**Present:** Cllr B Briars (Chair), Cllr M Foster, Cllr F Foster, Cllr Ms B Kerfoot, Cllr D Strachan  
Mike Thorn – Deputy Town Clerk  
Sue Crowther – Administrative Assistant  
Members of the public – 6 (including members of the Splash Park Committee)

**1. APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received from Cllr Mrs H Ramsay, Cllr P Biernis, Cllr I Bond and Cllr M North

**2. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS**

(a) **Disclosure pecuniary interests in any agenda item** - none

(b) **Non-pecuniary interests in any agenda item** – Cllr M Foster declared an interest in item 6a

**3. PUBLIC OPEN SESSION**

There were no items discussed during the public open session.

**4. MINUTES OF MEETINGS**

a. Members received and approved the minutes of the Public Lands and Open Spaces meeting held on 1 December 2015

**5. MATTERS ARISING**

a. From the Public Lands and Open Spaces meeting held on 1 December 2015 – none.

**6. ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION**

**a. Heather Drive Play Area**

Members considered refurbishment of the play area at Heather Drive. Further to the PLOS Walkabouts held in 2015 it was identified that Heather Drive play area would benefit from new play equipment including a new Multiplay unit and that Safety Surfaces would also require improvement. Quotations for this work have been received and were attached to the agenda.

Members were asked to consider the quotations for improvement works to Heather Drive Play Area, to be funded from 321 EMR Developers Contributions.

Quote A	£26,000.00
Quote B	£26,000.00
Quote C	£27,864.80
Quote D	£25,247.65

It was **RECOMMENDED** that **Quote A** be accepted.

**b. Franklin Recreation Ground Swing Frame**

Members considered a replacement swing frame to be installed at Franklin Recreation Ground.

The senior swing frame at Franklin Recreation Ground has had to be dismantled and the top bar removed to make the site safe. It is believed that the cause of the problem is due to subsidence. An alternative swing design has been chosen to prevent a similar problem.

A contractor is already engaged to replace the safety surface under warranty and therefore only one quote has been requested in accordance with Financial Regulations 11.1. This quote is also in line

with a successful quote received from the same contractor for an identical swing installation in 2014 that was approved following competitive quotations.

Members were asked to consider the quotation for the installation of a two bay swing frame to be funded from 321 EMR Developers Contributions.

Quote A            £4,903.44

It was **RECOMMENDED** that **Quote A** be accepted.

**c. PLOS Walkabouts**

Members were asked to consider arrangements for PLOS Walkabouts in 2016.

It was **RECOMMENDED** that the Deputy Town Clerk circulate a list of suggested dates for Committee members to consider.

**7. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION**

**a. Scout Headquarters**

Correspondence was received from the Biggleswade Scout Group regarding the proposal to site a new Scout Headquarters at the Cricket Ground and was attached to the agenda.

The site was deemed unsuitable.

This information was noted.

**b. Public Open Space at Land East of Biggleswade**

Central Bedfordshire Council is considering a proposal from Bedfordshire Football Association who are wishing to install a 3G Football Pitch at Land East of Biggleswade. As a result, it is not certain as to the extent of Public Open Space that will become available to the Town Council.

This information was noted.

**c. Splash Park**

A site survey and flood risk assessment of Franklin Recreation Ground has commenced and results are expected at the end of March. The Biggleswade Splash Park Committee has prepared a Business Case to be presented to Council along with the results of the site survey.

This information was noted.

**d. Update on Current Works**

- i) **Poppyfields Play Area 2.** Refurbishment and installation works have been completed and the site is in use.
- ii) **Kitelands Zig Zag Twisters:** Installation is complete and these items are in use.
- iii) **Kitelands MUGA.** Ground works have commenced to level the ground in preparation for seeding before installation.
- iv) **Allotment Dip Tanks.** Installation has commenced whilst the water supply is turned off for the winter months and is expected to be completed before the water is turned on again.
- v) **Safety Surfaces improvements.** Works are scheduled to take place in the Spring at the following sites: Berkeley Close, Franklin Recreation Ground, Kayser Court, Kitelands Recreation Ground, Foxglove, Lilac Grove, Stratton Way and Watkin Walk.

These works were due to be funded from 321 EMR Developers Contributions at a cost of

£19,295.00. However, £17,575 has since been secured from S106 funds for this work and the amount required to be funded from Reserves has therefore reduced to £1,720.

- vi) **Removal of Concrete Rings at Eagle Farm Road.** An order has been placed for the removal of these rings and will commence when ground conditions allow.
- vii) **Refurbishment of Public Open Space benches.** This work is ongoing with a number of wooden benches and bins having been refurbished.
- viii) **Bowls Club.** Repairs to the edge of the bowling green are under way. The pump servicing the irrigation system has been removed to attempt a repair rather than replacement.

This information was noted.

## **8. PUBLIC OPEN SESSION**

Shirley Legate a resident of Kitelands Road asked if Town Council has any by-laws in place to stop people parking on the grass verges, or would it be CBC?

Cllr B Briars advised that she would need to contact CBC Highways Department to raise this concern.

Ross Little – Splash Park Committee – asked that if the survey and flood risk assessment of Franklin Recreation Ground shows that this area is unsuitable, could the PLOS committee could suggest other locations as a contingency plan?

BB replied that this had already been agreed at a previous meeting.

## **9. EXEMPT ITEMS**

The following resolution will be moved that is advisable in the public interest that the public and press are excluded whilst the following exempt item +issue(s) is discussed.

### **Item 10a – Minutes of Meetings**

Pursuant to section 1(2) of the public bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 Council **resolve** to exclude the public and press by reason of the confidential nature of the business about to be transacted.

**10. EXEMPT ITEMS**

**a. Minutes of Meetings**

Members received and approved the minutes of the Exempt Items of the Public Lands and Open Spaces meeting held on 1 December 2015.