

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE PUBLIC LAND & OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE HELD ON 21 JUNE 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 M North, Cllr D Strachan  
Mike Thorn – Deputy Town Clerk  
Sue Crowther – Administrator  
Members of the public – 2

Also present: Cllr D Albone

- 21/0601**      **1.      APOLOGIES**
- Apologies were received from Cllr Ms R Kerfoot, Cllr Mrs H Ramsay and Cllr P Biernis
- 21/0602**      **2.      DECLARATION OF INTERESTS**
- 0602.1            **(a)** Disclosable Pecuniary Interests in any agenda item – none declared
- 0602.2            **(b)** Non-Pecuniary Interests in any agenda item – none declared
- 21/0603**      **3.      PUBLIC OPEN SESSION**
- There were no items discussed during the public open session.
- 21/0604**      **4.      MINUTES OF MEETINGS**
- a.                Members received and approved the minutes of the Public Land and Open Space meeting held on 15 March 2016.
- 5.      MATTERS ARISING**
- 21/0605**      a.                From the Public Land and Open Space meeting held on 15 March 2016
- Page 2 – item 7c – Splash Park – Cllr D Strachan asked any further information had been received.
- Cllr B Briars replied that the Franklins Recreation ground survey report, and the Splash Park Business Plan would be on the next Council agenda.
- There were no other matters arising.
- 21/0606**      **6.      ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION**
- 0606.1            a.                **Franklin Recreation Ground Swing Frame**
- Contractors have completed warranty repairs to safety surfaces and replaced the large swing frame at Franklin Recreation Ground. The swing frame was due to be replaced with a Wicksteed ‘Flexiswing’ frame. However, the works were completed without confirming with

officers and the contractors have installed a Wicksteed Heritage swing frame in error.

development is that since the order for the Flexiswing was placed, this model has now been discontinued and is no longer available. This has been confirmed with the manufacturers direct.

The installation company have admitted their error and apologise for the inconvenience.

The original cost for installing a Flexiswing was £4,903.44. As a goodwill gesture the installation company has offered a reduced price of £3,609.44, i.e. a reduction of £1294.00.

Members were asked to consider recommending to Council to accept the installed Wicksteed Heritage Swing at a reduced price of £3,609.44.

0606.2      **b.      Biggleswade United Football Club request to move fence**

Members were asked to consider a request by Biggleswade United Football Club to move a fence to increase the floodlit training area in front of the football pitch and reduce the size of the car park. Correspondence is attached to this agenda including a rough plan.

Following a further site meeting with the Deputy Town Clerk, BUFC has confirmed that they do not wish to enclose the car park and that this would still be available to the public to use. The maximum distance that they are now asking to move the fence is 3m in to the car park.

Members are asked to consider recommending to Council to allow Biggleswade United Football Club to move the fence between the training area and the Fairfield Road car park by a maximum of 3m into the car park.

It was **RECOMMENDED** to allow Biggleswade United Football Club to move the fence between the training area and the Fairfield Road car park by a maximum of 3m into the car park, subject to receiving satisfactory plans from BUFC with measurements and a risk assessment on the impact to the play area.

**21/0607      7.      ITEMS FOR INFORMATION**

0607.1      **a.      Heather Drive Play Area**

Contract works have commenced for the refurbishment of Heather Drive Play Area and are expected to take approximately three weeks to complete.

This information was noted.

0607.2      **b.      Safety Surface Improvements**

Works at the following areas have now been completed: Berkeley Close, Franklin Recreation Ground, Kayser Court, Foxglove Drive, Lilac Grove and Stratton Way.

This information was noted.

0607.3      **c.      Graffiti Boards**

The Graffiti Boards installed at the Lakes Recreation Ground were vandalised recently to such an extent that they have had to be removed. The boards had been jointly funded by local developers and the Town Council and were in regular use by artists.

The Town Clerk is currently seeking quotes for the replacement of the Graffiti Boards with a more permanent structure and looking into the options for funding.

This information was noted.

0607.4      **d.      Update on Adoption of Play Areas at Kings Reach**

Officers have been asked to attend site meetings later this month to inspect progress with the installation of Play Equipment at Kings Reach prior to adoption by the Town Council.

This information was noted.

0607.5      **e.      Walkabouts**

Walkabouts have been conducted at the following locations:

Monday 16th May:

- Kayser Court Play Area
- Brunel Drive Play Area (not yet adopted)
- Berkeley Close Play Area
- Franklin Recreation Ground
- Dan Albone Picnic Area

Tuesday 17th May:

- Lilac Grove Play Area
- Foxglove Drive Play Area
- Eagle Farm Road Recreation Ground
- Stratton Way Recreation Ground
- Stratton Way Cemetery

The next walkabout has been scheduled for Tuesday 5th July starting at 6pm. The Deputy Town Clerk will circulate an itinerary in advance of the date. If Members have a particular interest in seeing specific areas, they are asked to contact the Deputy Town Clerk.

This information was noted.

**21/0608**      **8.      PUBLIC OPEN SESSION**

There were no items discussed during the public open session

**21/0609**      **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.

**There were no Exempt items.**

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.