

MINUTES

Committee: Amenities Committee
Date: Monday, 17 August 2020
Time: 7:00pm
Venue: Zoom

Present

Cllr Barry Rogers (Chair)
Cllr Les Bayliss
Cllr Kim Bloxham
Cllr Colin Buchan

Also Present

Cllr Ray Bloxham, Cranbrook Town Council
Cllr Kevin Blakey, Cranbrook Town Council
Alice Lloyd, Country Park Ranger, Cranbrook Town Council
Sarah Jenkins, Locum Clerk, Cranbrook Town Council
Tracy Simmons, Deputy Clerk, Cranbrook Town Council

A/20/21 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

No apologies for absence were received.

A/20/22 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

No declarations of interest were made.

A/20/23 MINUTES

It was proposed by Cllr Colin Buchan, seconded by Cllr Les Bayliss and **resolved** to accept and sign the minutes of the meeting held on 6 July 2020 as a correct record.

A/20/24 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There were no members of the public in attendance.

A/20/25 KNEE RAIL REPLACEMENT

The Committee considered the report on knee rail repair or removal in the Country Park.

The Committee discussed whether the fixing description used in the report was the currently used method in the Country Park. It was clarified that the recommendation from Tony Bengers Landscaping was for bird's mouth fixing to replace the current knee rails. This method prevents people from being able to walk on top of the posts and would be easier and more cost effective to install.

Signed

28 September 2020

The Committee questioned why the proposed budget was so low and why it was proposed to only replace around 10m of knee rail a year. The Country Park Ranger clarified that it would be difficult to predict how much of the knee rail would fail in the year and how much of that would require replacement, as not all of the knee rail would need replacement as it fails.

The Committee questioned whether there was already a budget to repair fencing in the county park. It was discussed that there was not a specific budget code for this, but there is leeway in some of the current budgets for maintenance and repairs this financial year.

It was proposed by Cllr Kim Bloxham, seconded by Cllr Les Bayliss and **resolved** to:

1. remove the knee-rail as it fails, where decorative.
2. repair the knee-rail as it fails, where needed from a health and safety perspective with bird's mouth fencing.
3. delegate authorisation of works to the Chair of Finance & Personnel and the Clerk for any knee rails which need to be repaired in this financial year from the current budgets for maintenance and repairs.
4. recommend that the Amenities Committee provides Finance & Personnel Committee a budget figure for country park/public open space general maintenance for the 2021/2022.

A/20/26 ACCESS TO NATURE RESERVE

The Committee considered the report on access to the nature reserve in Phase 1 of the Country Park. The Country Park Ranger commented that a makeshift crossing had been installed by the public, and the fencing is showing wear, where people are gaining access to the nature reserve.

The Committee questioned whether the Council already had the curb stones for the crossing, and if any of these would need to be cut down to size. The Country Park Ranger confirmed that the curb stones were in Tony Bengers Landscaping's courtyard for use and there should be sufficient number of smaller pieces for use. However, the Country Park Ranger suggested a small budget be recommended to cut any stones in case any do need to be cut down to size.

It was questioned as to how the stones would be transported to the nature reserve, it was confirmed that the Council has a van, which could be used for this purpose and then a wheelbarrow to the river. A risk assessment was in place for the manual handling of the steppingstones.

The Committee commented on whether any provision had been considered for the removal of the steppingstones in the future and the replacement of these. It was discussed that the makeshift crossing had been in place for a number of years and had not been removed, so any crossing the Council installed should remain in place.

The Committee discussed the fencing and access to the site. It was confirmed that whether a gate or stile was installed, the barbed wire and fencing would need to be cut and made safe for access.

It was questioned if the volunteer as mentioned in the report had already been arranged. It was confirmed that a volunteer was already available for this task.

Cllr Ray Bloxham reminded members that there was Devon County Council locality funding available for projects of this type.

It was proposed by Cllr Barry Rogers, seconded by Cllr Colin Buchan and **resolved** to

1. delegate to the Country Park Ranger to finalise the proposal, including any costs
2. secure funding where needed
3. approve the installation of kerbstone steppingstones, with a stile to allow access to the nature reserve at no cost to the Council.

Signed

28 September 2020

A/20/27 OWNERSHIP AND MAINTENANCE RESPONSIBILITY OF SERVICE STRIPS IN CRANBROOK

The Committee noted the report regarding the ownership and maintenance responsibility of service strips in Cranbrook and that the report was to be used to inform any response to requests made to the Town Council to undertake maintenance of service strips.

A/20/28 PROVISION OF ADDITIONAL PUBLIC BARBECUE FACILITIES

The Committee considered the report on the provision of additional public barbecue facilities and bins in the Country Park.

The Committee commented that the areas proposed are all near Phases 1 & 2 of the development and questioned if areas closer to phases 3 and 4, near Stone Barton, had been considered. It was clarified that the proposed play equipment due to be installed in that area would be better placed before discussions on installing barbeques, so as to not to disrupt the play area or trim trail. However, the proposal can return to Amenities in the future for provision of barbeques in the Stone Barton area.

The Committee questioned the cost of waste collection, it was clarified that the Council is charged £5 per bin, per collection. These collections happen twice a week but increase to three times a week during busy times.

It was proposed by Cllr Les Bayliss, seconded by Cllr Kim Bloxham and **resolved**

1. That two further barbecue sites be provided in the country park, including the provision of additional waste bins as indicated in appendix 1 and 2
2. That an additional metal waste bin be provided at the existing barbecue site
3. That funding opportunities be explored towards capital costs
4. That following the decision by Council about extending the country park policies to all areas of open space, that further guidance be issued to the community on the use of barbecues in areas of public open space.

The meeting closed at 19.37 pm.

Signed

28 September 2020