

MINUTES

Committee: Amenities Committee
Date: Monday, 9 November 2020
Time: 7:00pm
Venue: Zoom

Present

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

Also Present

Cllr Kevin Blakey, Cranbrook Town Council
Alice Lloyd, Country Park Ranger, Cranbrook Town Council
Tracy Simmons, Deputy Clerk, Cranbrook Town Council

A/20/38 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

No apologies for absence were received

A/20/39 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

No declarations of interest were made.

A/20/40 MINUTES

It was proposed by Cllr Les Baylis, seconded by Cllr Colin Buchan and resolved to accept and sign the minutes of the meeting held on 28 September 2020 as a correct record.

A/20/41 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There were no members of the public in attendance.

A/20/42 COUNTRY PARK TREE PLANTING

The Committee Considered the report on tree planting locations. The Country Park Ranger clarified that there is already a line of trees between the proposed planting area and the railway line. The Committee discussed that due to the height of the trees along the railway line, these may be removed in the future for safety. Planting trees before this would allow the new trees to mature, before any future removal happened.

The Committee discussed that railway line safety must be taken into consideration and any planting must be an appropriate distance from the track. The Committee questioned which side of the mown path the trees were planned to be planted, the Country Park Ranger clarified it was the railway line side of the path.

Signed

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It was noted that the proposed planting location near the dog walking area already had trees on one side of the path and the proposed planting was on the other side of the path forming an avenue of trees. The Committee discussed that tree avenues were beneficial not only aesthetically, but also provide shade for the path.

It was proposed by Cllr Barry Rogers, seconded by Cllr Matt Osborn and **resolved** to approve the tree planting at the sites suggested with the following comments;

1. planting distances must be adhered to so as not cause any future hazard to the railway line
2. to plant the trees on both sides of the path by the railway line and on one side of the path by the dog walking area to create an avenue of trees in both areas.

A/20/43 TRAMPOLINE AT NORTHWOOD ACRES

The Committee considered the report on the trampoline at Northwood Acres Play Park. The Committee discussed the continued repair costs to the trampolines. The Committee commented that similar issues had been experienced in Hayes Square play park and that piece of play equipment had not been replaced.

It was proposed by Cllr Ray Bloxham, seconded by Cllr Les Bayliss and **resolved** to remove the trampoline at Northwood Acres on the grounds of continued vandalism, safety concerns and the need for recurring significant repair costs, but to actively research equipment to replace this piece of equipment and the equipment in Hayes Square which had previously been removed.

Cllr Barry Rogers voted against the recommendation for removal of the trampoline in Northwood acres.

A/20/44 COUNTRY PARK PHASE 1 GATE

The Committee Considered the report on securing the closed gate in Country Park Phase 1. It was commented by the Committee that dog owners should take responsibility for their own animals while walking, and the Council does not advertise that area of the Country Park as dog secure.

The Committee discussed that planting in the space between the old gate would be preferable to blocking the bottom of the old gate with planks. This would extend the hedge improving the wildlife corridor. Furthermore, this would reduce the risk of people crossing the road at this point and climbing over the gate if the gap was effectively removed

It was proposed by Cllr Kim Bloxham, seconded by Cllr Colin Buchan and **resolved** to plant the area between the old gate extending the hedge.

A20/45 WILLOW SCULPTURE

The Committee **noted** the report on the willow sculpture and the Cranbrook Canopy Project.

A/20/46 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

Due to the sensitive or confidential nature of the following item it was proposed by Cllr Ray Bloxham, seconded by Cllr Kim Bloxham and resolved to exclude the press and public from the remainder of the meeting on the basis of Section 1 paragraph 2 of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 which stipulates that a council may, by resolution, exclude the public from a meeting (whether during the whole or part of the proceedings) whenever publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted or for other special reasons stated in the resolution and arising from the nature of that business or of the proceedings.

A/20/47 TREE SURGERY

The Committee Considered the report on tree surgery in the Country Park.

Signed

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It was proposed by Cllr Ray Bloxham, seconded by Cllr Matt Osborn and **resolved** to instruct Apex Trees to remove the damaged limb from tree 1 and monolith tree 2 for the environmental benefits of leaving standing deadwood in situ.

The meeting closed at 7.28 pm.

Signed

5 November 2020