

MEETING OF THE AMENITIES COMMITTEE

Tuesday 22nd June at 7pm, Main Hall, Old School Building

Present: Cllrs R Ringham (Chair) P Hyde (Vice-Chair) R Fife, Y Greenfield, N Orders and D Wright

In attendance: J Sherrin (Clerk) J Savage (Deputy Clerk) D List (Grounds & Amenities Manager).
J Wakeling (Garden Holders Association) G Hadjigeorgiou (Friends of Roberts' Recreation Ground)

DRAFT MINUTES

- AM21/224** **Apologies for Absence** - None
- AM21/225** **Election of Chair** – Cllr R Ringham unanimously elected as Chair
- AM21/226** **Election of Vice-Chair** – Cllr P Hyde unanimously elected as Vice-Chair
- AM21/227** **Declarations of Councillors' interest for items on the agenda** – Cllrs N Orders and R Fife have allotments.
- AM21/228** **Minutes of meeting held on April 27th 2021** – Approved as a true record and duly signed by the Chair
- AM21/229** **Matters arising from previous minutes not covered in the agenda** - None
- AM21/230** **Allotments**
- (i) Garden Holders' Association update. J Wakeling provided an update on behalf of the GHA. The AGM has not yet taken place due to restrictions from the Covid-19 pandemic. Issues with paths and boundaries are due to be brought up at the meeting. Reminder email to be sent out that it is in the Tenancy Agreement that only fruit trees can be planted on the allotments and any non-fruit trees must be removed, to also include guidance on rabbit-proofing allotments. Using ferrets to control the rabbits to be followed up in the Autumn. J Savage to provide latest tenancy list to GHA once all payments have been received.
 - (ii) Waiting list update – 5 residents and 20 non-residents. Re-inspection has just taken place and 7 tenants will be receiving letters.
 - (iii) To consider allocation of a 'community plot' – requested by some allotment holders. J Wakeling reported that conversations are taking place with the Scouts regarding help with maintaining their plot and the GHA is not supportive of a community plot. Due to the fact that the waiting list is so long, it was unanimously agreed that a plot should not be allocated for community use.
 - (iv) Feedback on Notts Wildlife Trust visit – proposal to create a pond / bog pond behind muck plot discussed. Concerns raised regarding safety of children and insurance cover by the GHA. Also concerns that it would regularly flood. Suggestion for headlands to be cut on a higher mow setting with a flowering lawn mix discussed. Agreed that these are for access and need to be kept short, so not appropriate. Regarding suggestions of banning pet, slug pellets and weed killer being written into Tenancy Agreement – agreed that this would be better achieved through legislation, education and publicity than building it into the Agreement. Banning of ground-level

bonfires to protect wildlife – inclusion in Tenancy Agreement to be considered at next meeting.

AM21/231

The Grove

- (i) Update on diseased tree felling – plans to fell the diseased tree were halted the evening before felling, due to the detection of a crow's nest and a squirrel's nest in the upper branches. Unanimously approved for D List to seek expert opinion on safety concerns by delaying felling to the Autumn.
- (ii) To consider request from resident for planting of memorial tree – unanimously approved.
- (iii) To consider request to install outdoor gallery for primary school – further information and a meeting with the school to be arranged.
- (iv) Update on volunteer policy – Policy reviewed by F&GP committee, to be recommended to Full Council for formal approval. Risk Assessment for opening and locking The Grove Gates discussed and approved at the F&GP Committee. Hi-vis volunteer vests and a sign regarding volunteers have been purchased.

AM21/232

Roberts Recreation Ground

- (i) Friends of Roberts Recreation Ground - G Hadjigeorgiou provided an update. The Group is delighted with the news that the grant application was successful, thanks to the hard work of all who were involved. They look forward to having the new equipment in place in the autumn. An application has been submitted to the Co-op towards refurbishments of the Multi-Use Games Area (MUGA) at the back of the park, as part of Phase II of the improvements. The outcome of this application will be announced in October 2021 and funds available from April 2022. The offer has been made by a resident to purchase some basketball hoops for the MUGA area. Noted that the existing fencing and surfacing are not suitable for attaching hoops. Agreed that it would be better to install new hoops when Phase II begins and they can be properly built into the new design. G Hadjigeorgiou to pass on grateful thanks and request for the kind donation to be put on hold until the appropriate time. Safety concerns for the children were raised regarding the location of the Ice-Cream van by the dropped curb and pedestrian gate to the park. D List confirmed it also caused problems with access to the park for maintenance. Agreed that Cllr P Hyde would contact the Ice-Cream van owner, D List will place 'no parking' cones in the area and J Sherrin will contact VIA regarding the extension of the double yellow lines.
- (ii) FCC grant application – Confirmation of grant approval received. Decision made at F&GP regarding signatories and payment methods. Thanks given to all those involved in successful application.
- (iii) Progress with tunnel / mound section – Supplier has been chased. Advised the Roberts Rec is next on installation list. D List to make contact again.
- (iv) Equipment and maintenance – Bearings on the basket swing are starting to squeak. Surface under titan swing showing signs of wear. RoSPA report due. Weed killer has not been used to date as part of Environment Policy, but weeds are causing damage to some play surfaces. Agreed that weedkiller could be used on these areas to prevent further damage.
- (v) Request for installation of memorial bench approved. Replace old concrete one in toddler area.

AM21/233

Cemetery

- (i) Maintenance issues, including repairs to front wall – No quotes sought to date. D List to follow up.

- (ii) Update on new planting pockets for voluntary groups – Complete and currently seeded with wildflowers for the summer.
- (iii) To consider action on diseased beech trees x 2 – As per item AM21/231 agreed unanimously for expert opinion to be sought on all 3 beech trees.
- (iv) Request for installation of plaque on replacement memorial bench – unanimously approved.

AM21/234 **Information update** – Cllr D Wright raised concerns regarding water table at cemetery.

AM21/235 **Date of next meeting** – Tuesday 7th September at 7pm.

Signed: _____

Chair of Amenities Committee

Date: _____