**MEETING OF THE RECREATION, PARKS & PROPERTY COMMITTEE**

**HELD ON 8TH APRIL 2024 AT 7:00PM**

**Present:**

Cllr U Arnold Cllr S Oldrieve

Cllr E Kelly Cllr L Robilliard-Webb

Cllr H Mills-Brown Cllr S Simmons

**In attendance:**

Mr M Wells – Town Clerk

Ms A Christie – Assistant Town Clerk

Cllr C Burton

One member of the public

Two members of Bovey Tracey Cricket Club

*The meeting was chaired by Cllr Kelly.*

**RP&P.24/12 Apologies for Absence**:

Cllr S Brooke – Personal commitment.

**RP&P.24/13 Declarations of Interest and Requests for Dispensations**

None.

**\*\*Public Participation:**

Two members of Bovey Tracey Cricket Club spoke in relation to item RP&P.24/20. The club request landowner permission for a borehole to be drilled next to the cricket nets for a more sustainable source of water to maintain the cricket pitch, to reduce the need to use drinking quality water from the mains on the site indirectly supporting biodiversity. There may be joint potential for the bowls club to benefit from the new borehole water supply also. The cricket club are pursuing a grant for the works.

**RP&P.24/14 Minutes**:

i) The minutes of the meeting of 19th February 2024 were confirmed as a correct record and approved.

ii) RP&P.24/09 – The Town Clerk advised that Cllr Brooke is pursuing tenders in relation to the Town Christmas Lights display.

**RP&P.24/15 Standing Item – Climate and Ecology Emergency:**

Members noted the Council Declaration and embedded the climate emergency declaration across all Council services, activities, plans and other relevant work, considering the environmental impact of decisions, ensuring a fully integrated approach to mitigating the impact of climate change.

**RP&P.24/16 Friends of Mill Marsh Park (FoMMP):**

Members received and noted minutes of the FoMMP meeting held on 05.03.24 (\**copy previously circulated*). Cllr Robillard-Webb provided an update in relation to the recent Easter Egg trail supported by the Friends Group, advising that approximately 100 people attended.

**RP&P.24/17 Wayleave Agreement – Mill Marsh Park**

Members considered re-issuing a wayleave agreement for direct residential access to Mill Marsh Park. The Town Clerk provided further information and background history to the current situation advising that a resident has sold their property and the new owner would like to continue the arrangement.

**Resolved:** Following discussion, members resolved to instruct the Town Clerk to re-issue the wayleave agreement allowing direct residential access to Mill Marsh Park to the new owner(s).

**RP&P.24/18 Request for Planting – Prince Rupert Way Green Space - Heathfield**

Members considered approving a request for the planting of a mixed species hedge by the Council to detract from ball games along a neighbouring wall in the Council’s green space. Cllr Robillard Webb provided further information verbally at the meeting.

**Resolved:** Following discussion, members resolved to approve the planting of a mixed species hedge by the council to detract from ball games at an approximate cost of £120.00.

**RP&P.24/19 Use of Bullands Field and Mill Marsh Park – Bovey Food & Craft Festival 2024**

Members considered a request for the use of Mill Marsh Park and Bullands Field for parking to support the Bovey Food & Craft Festival (7th September 2024).

**Resolved:** Following discussion, members resolved to approve the use of Mill Marsh Park and Bullands Field for parking to support the Bovey Food & Craft Festival (7th September 2024). This approval is subject to ground conditions allowing safe access and the standard indemnity being provided and the event operating in accordance with the green events policy etc.

**RP&P.24/20 B T Cricket Club – Recreation Ground – Request for Borehole**

Members considered a request on behalf of Bovey Tracey Cricket Club to create a borehole and to host the associated apparatus (*\*copy previously circulated*).

**Resolved:** Following discussion, members resolved to approve the request from Bovey Tracey Cricket Club to create a borehole subject to the club obtaining any other necessary permissions from appropriate bodies. The Town Clerk to formalise the agreement in accordance with the current lease conditions.

**RP&P.24/21 Saving Devon’s Treescapes – Bullands Field**

Members received and considered a report seeking approval for tree planting at Bullands Field (*\*copy previously circulated*).

**Resolved:** Members resolved to approve the request for tree planting at Bullands Field as laid out in within the recommendations of the report.

**RP&P.24/22 Youth Cabins – Heathfield**

Members noted that the current temporary planning classification of use expires on 30th May 2024 and considered approving the submission of a planning application to extend the current category of use. The Town Clerk provided an update around the history of the site, the current situation and the planning categories of use.

**Resolved:** To approve the submission of the planning application to extend the current planning category of use.

**RP&P.24/23** **Matters brought forward by the Town Clerk & Councillors**: (*for information)*

**Cllr Robilliard Webb** provided an update on the Heathfield Play Area Redevelopment at Prince Rupert Way, advising that there are restrictions on site which have been identified with tree root protection areas. A draft tender specification and plan will be presented at a future committee for consideration.

**Cllr Mills Brown** advised that a large number of trees have been felled off Moretonhampstead Road.

**The Town Clerk** advised that the proposer of the gym operating at the redundant football pavilion has withdrawn their offer. The planning application for the required change of use is progressing and still to be determined.

Meeting Closed 7:35pm