



MINUTES OF THE FIRST MEETING OF THE JUBILEE FIELD COMMITTEE

held on Monday 25 November 2019

At Elton Community Centre, School Lane, Elton

At 7pm

People present: Cllrs Serna, Lockhart, O'Reilly, Canham, Dickinson and Leith. Members of the public Andy Gorst, Sarah Gorst, Steve Yandell, Janice Boden and Daniel Palmer-Jones.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllrs Wilson, Garrity, Williams and Reading. Elton Primary School liaison Sarah Price.

2. APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS

Cllrs Serna, Lockhart, Garrity, Leith, Canham, O'Reilly and Dickinson. Sarah Price (in absence), Sarah Gorst, Andy Gorst, Daniel Palmer-Jones, Janice Boden and Steve Yandell.

3. APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR

Cllrs Lockhart and Dickinson put themselves forward to Chair the Committee. Cllr Lockhart was proposed by Cllr Serna and seconded by Cllr Canham. The vote was unanimous that Cllr Lockhart be appointed Chair. Cllr Dickinson left the meeting.

4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

5. PUBLIC SPEAKING TIME

None of the members of the public wished to speak at this time.

6. MINUTES

As this is the first meeting of the Jubilee Field Committee there were no previous minutes to approve.

7. UPDATE ON RECENT WORK CARRIED OUT

The Chair gave an update on recent works and progress so far. She has been liaising with the contractor who had advised that the field should be cleared and the project started from scratch. The Chair confirmed that some of the previously planted saplings had been "choked" by the overgrowth of weeds and brambles, the remaining 20 surviving saplings had been carefully

removed and set to one side before the excavation of the pathway was carried out. The contractor had to re-excavate the pathway, which had originally been carried out in January 2019, due to the passage of time and overgrowth. The Chair advised that the contractor has offered to supply and install 3 bins and a bench for the project free of charge.

8. SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS FOR THE NEXT 12 MONTHS

It was agreed that future meetings of the Jubilee Field Committee would be held monthly on the 3rd Monday of the month (excluding August) due to availability of the Community Centre. This would also enable the Chair to inform the Parish Clerk of items the Committee would like to be included on the Agenda for the monthly Parish Council meetings.

It was agreed that the meeting scheduled for 20 January 2020 would commence at 8pm due to the Finance meeting being held at 7pm.

9. FUTURE PLANNED WORKS

Discussion about having the existing well-established tree as the focal point. The Chair suggested a hawthorn hedge for the boundary of the field which would act as a barrier between the road and the field and would also provide additional habitat for wildlife. She had costed this at £300, with each whip costing 12p. Cllr Serna stated that maintenance of a boundary hedge would need to be taken into consideration and budgeted for. Steve Yandell advised that there were plenty of charities who would supply saplings. Steve Yandell advised not to get blackthorn. He also advised that brambles needed keeping under control with regular cutting back and removal of roots as they can quite quickly overtake an area.

The Chair suggested having bat boxes which would be located on poles approximately 10-20ft off the ground. She had been advised not to put bat boxes in trees.

The Chair said that biodiversity consideration was important, however this had to be a managed wildlife project which could be used and enjoyed by all residents. Cllr Serna agreed and said the field really needed to have a multi-purpose use for residents, Scouts, school children, senior citizens and residents with disabilities. All agreed that it should be a place that is quiet, peaceful, a place to meet, encouraging birds and wildlife, inviting and reflective.

It was agreed that a survey of residents would not be revisited as this would hold back the project which had only just started to progress. Cllr Serna stated if we didn't continue to move forward with the project now then the field would grow wild again. It was agreed that plans could be adapted and developed as the project moved forward.

The Chair advised that the gate to the field needed urgent attention. It was agreed that she would obtain a cost to replace the gate with an "A" gate.

The field is currently water-logged. Steve Yandell suggested planting willow which could help prevent this in future. It was agreed that members of the public would not be allowed access to the field yet as the contractors needed to return and complete the pathway.

A wildflower meadow was suggested. Cllr Leith expressed concern as she had read that wildflower meadows would need a lot of maintenance and weeding. Steve Yandell agreed and said he would pass details of a contact who could advise regarding wildflower meadows.

Steve Yandell said it was worth the Committee contacting the Mersey Forest.

Cllr O'Reilly advised the Scouts would like to provide bug boxes.

10. BUDGET

- (1) It was proposed by Cllr Serna and seconded by the Chair that the Committee would request an interim budget of £500 which could be spent without the necessity to return to the Parish Council for permission. This was agreed unanimously.
- (2) It was agreed that the interim budget would be used for minor sundries (ie; replacement padlocks/chains etc).

11. APOLOGIES FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

It was agreed that for future meetings Committee members would advise the Chair if they were unable to attend by 10am on the day of the meeting

12. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

It was discussed and agreed that there would not be a meeting in December 2019. Therefore, the next Committee meeting will be held on 20 January 2020.

It was agreed that the Committee would attend a site visit to the Jubilee Field on Saturday 7 December 2019 at 11am.

The Chair closed the meeting at 8.05pm.