

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE AMENITIES COMMITTEE HELD IN KINGS HOUSE,
THETFORD ON WEDNESDAY 6th JULY 2022, STARTING AT 2.00 PM.

Councillors:

R Brame, D Crawford, S Dowling, C Harvey, D Hodgkinson (Vice Chair), T Jermy (Chair),
B Tullett,

Officers:

A Yorke (Deputy Town Clerk and Finance Officer), N Thompson (Town Team Manager),
K Robinson (Committee Clerk)

There were 7 members of the public in attendance.

MINUTES

167/22	<p><u>DECLARATIONS OF ANY DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS</u></p> <p>Councillor B Tullett – Norfolk and Waveney Mind – REST Thetford. (Non-pecuniary).</p>
168/22	<p><u>APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE</u></p> <p>Councillors C Barreto, M Brindle and S Wright. Absent: Councillor K Parker.</p>
169/22	<p><u>MINUTES</u></p> <p>RESOLVED: The minutes of the Committee meeting held on 1st June 2022, which were received by Full Council on 28th June 2022, are a true record and be signed/initialled by the Chairman.</p>
170/22	<p><u>FINANCIAL REPORT UPDATE</u></p> <p>The Finance Officer presented the Financial Report for the 3 months ended 30 June 2022. It was noted that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A donation of £600 had been received towards Thetford In Bloom. • Playparks expenditure of approximately £15,000 is a carryover from 2021/22 where it was resolved at a Full Council level that this expenditure will be funded from Reserves. That hasn't happened yet. • Expenditure for tree work maintenance were included but still waiting for tree survey results. There may be additional costs incurred after the survey is completed. • Vehicle leasing costs – Urgent vehicle replacement required and will need to be followed up. <p>The Committee noted the financial report.</p>
171/22	<p><u>APPROVAL OF SMALL GRANTS</u></p> <p>The Small Grant Applications were distributed to members prior to the meeting. Councillor D Hodgkinson proposed, and Councillor D Crawford seconded:</p> <p>RESOLVED: That the two Small Grant Applications (Breckland Cancer Support Group and Norfolk and Waveney Mind) be approved.</p>

	<p>It was requested that as one beneficiary was a large organisation, that it be stressed that the beneficiaries must be residents of Thetford in accordance with the small grants terms and conditions.</p>
172/22	<p><u>COMMITTEE OFFICER'S REPORT</u></p> <p>The Town Team report, which was circulated to members of the Committee before the meeting and included the following matters:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Replaced bins at playparks and Castle Park play area. • Graffiti – Town Team have attempted cleaning the items and have reported the issue to Norfolk Police. • Norfolk County Council have been contacted regarding refurbishment of heritage lamp posts, information posts and finger posts. • Street furniture audit map is nearing completion. • Planters in the Market Place have been treated with wood stain. • Anglia in Bloom - £300 per category (the Council has entered three categories: Town Centre, King's House Gardens and the Cemetery). Judging to take place on Tuesday 12th July 2022 • Front Garden Competition – 49 nominations now received. • Playparks – Contractor to provide quote for second phase of refurbishment so that working group can follow this up. <p>There was a request that where vandalism occurred, the costs are logged to explain to residents the cost of vandalism.</p> <p>There was also an update on the recent meeting with the grazier and the progress that would be made in getting the area grazed.</p> <p>The report was noted.</p>
173/22	<p><u>FISH PASS</u></p> <p>The Deputy Town Clerk reported on a document that was circulated prior to the meeting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environment Agency (EA) is reviewing the request by the Council to extend the FRAP for 2 years. They have informed the Council the need to apply for a new bespoke permit for the permanent fish pass solution. Officers will complete this paperwork on receipt of the FRAP. • Quotes for reinstatement should be sought as it is unlikely that EA would provide any match funding for this solution but permits and permission from the EA would still need to be granted before any works could take place. • It is possible that any reinstatement would also have to be an engineered structure rather than a naturalised bank but quotes for all options would nevertheless be requested. <p>The Committee want to request the Town Clerk to look at an external consultant to assist in this matter due to the absence of a countryside officer. The consultant could be funded from some of the savings from the vacant post. The Committee also requested that officers provide a map of ownership of the land and investigate reports of tree felling in the area.</p>
174/22	<p><u>ACTION POINTS & UPDATES</u></p> <p>The Chairman gave a verbal update on the action points and updates circulated to members of the committee before the meeting.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Renewal of play areas – working group to meet before next meeting.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mowing regime consultation of Breckland Council land. Look at in the Autumn ready for the 2023 growing season. • Inventory of street furniture – imminent. • Review of the Open Spaces Policy to be added to the agenda for the next meeting. • Mill Lane seeding to be completed during the Autumn months
175/22	<u>COMMITTEE OFFICERS UPDATE</u> None.
176/22	<u>COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT</u> The Committee asked that the following matter be addressed: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Castle Park grazing to be promoted – Sheep, initially, and access to the area still possible.

Chairman.