



**Minutes of the Playing Fields Committee meeting
The Council Chamber, Cinderford,
Tuesday 16th August 2022, 6.15 p.m**

Present:

Cllr D Martin
Cllr G Martin
Cllr M Turner
Cllr C Witham
Cllr A Davies
Cllr N Taylor
Cllr S Reader
Cllr G Morgan
Cllr T Holder
Cllr R Sterry
Luke Bailey (Cinderford Community Grows)

Skatepark User Group

Michelle & Neo Gardiner
Jane Telling
Alison Pflug
Anthony Wood
Alan & Sam Grist

- 1. To receive apologies for absence**
Apologies for absence were received from Cllr J Charlton-Wright.
- 2. Declarations of Interest – to receive any declarations of interest in any matter to be discussed at the meeting. Members and Officers are requested to identify the nature of the interest**
None declared.
- 3. Public Participation Session – to provide the opportunity for Members of the Public to raise questions or comment on items on the Agenda (limited to 15 minutes, with a maximum 3 minutes per person)**
No items raised.
- 4. Chairman's Urgent Business**
No items raised.
- 5. To confirm the Minutes of the Meeting held on 8th March 2022 (copy herewith)**
The minutes of the meeting were approved and signed by the Chair.
Proposed: Cllr M Turner Seconded Cllr: R Sterry
- 6. Matters Arising from Minutes**
None.
- 7. To discuss the Cinderford Grows Proposal for Steam Mills & St Johns**
Two proposals for St Johns Square and Steam Mills were received and discussed with the CG representative. The Committee discussed the Steam Mills Community Orchard proposal on unused land at Steam Mills and planned improvements to land at St Johns. GCC Ashdie back scheme trees would arrive in the Autumn and details of the FODDC tree scheme application were noted. The Committee supported the Cinderford Grows

Community Orchard and St Johns Improvement Scheme noting the plans would improve the look, use and biodiversity of both areas. The Committee noted a low safety fence was required at St Johns to improve safety. .

Proposed to take forward the Cinderford Grows proposals for Steam Mills & St Johns by Cllr G Morgan, seconded Cllr M Turner. All in favour. The Clerk would contact the solicitors to arrange for the necessary legal documents to be drawn up.

The Committee thanked Community Grows for both written proposals and for playing an active part in Cinderford.

8. Miners Welfare Skatepark

a. To receive an update on planning

FODDC Planning Committee are next due to meet in September 2022. As FODDC are the land owner applications need to be determined by the FODDC Planning Committee.

Drainage & contamination - information from the FODDC Assistant Flood Risk Management officer was noted. Latest information around soakaways, attenuation and Section 106 permission from Severn Trent was discussed.

Archus (planning consultants) are obtaining further drainage information to be submitted for the September planning meeting.

Contamination - an intrusive site investigation to assess the shallow soils at the site is requested. Further information is being sought to comply with this condition.

Lighting - further information was requested around ecology and this has been submitted to planning (P0372/22/FUL). .

Costs for car parking have risen dramatically due to conditions around drainage works. The history of the area, previous French Drainage works and drainage issues were discussed. Council discussed options available including legal avenues, querying the level of works now required with FODDC, conflict of interests, historical discussions never highlighting drainage as an issue. Councillors noted the use of the car park by skatepark users at the existing site was low.

The Clerk would write to the Head of Paid Service FODDC regarding issues noting that CTC are tenants and FODDC are the land owners. A number of questions would be raised regarding previous works, conditions, condition removal and link to the playing fields investment strategy.

Councillors discussed the ongoing delays to the skatepark scheme due to the need to discharge planning conditions.

Councillors discussed a potential alternative option being relocating the skatepark to Steam Mills. CTC were Trustees of the land but noted. Councillors discussed exploring a relocation but this would involve new designs, surveys and fees being required. Costs for exploring relocating were approximately £17k for drainage design, groundworks, topographical & ecology surveys, contamination report and planning fees. This did not include skatepark redesign costs and lighting redesign costs which could bring fees in at approximately £20-30k in additional costs.

Councillors sought thoughts from the skatepark user group who advised the Steam Mills location was not a central location and starting again would delay the project further. Councillors welcomed the input and discussed options and agreed not to progress the relocation idea due to costs, timeframe, access and site uncertainties. .

To note and discuss the revised car park and drainage quotes including rise in costs

Councillors were provided with a detailed paper showing the current costings which detailed the costs for drainage, car park, footpath works and fencing against initial quotations. Councillors noted costs had risen to £191,118.34 and could rise further..

b. To note the revised lighting design including rise in costs

Councillors noted that further work had been undertaken by the lighting contractors to meet planning. Revised drawings and information had been submitted to FODDC. Costs had risen by £5970.00 The price for the mechanical hydraulic raise and lower unit suitable for use with the folding floodlighting columns remained the same. C

c. To note the water request

A Skatepark User Group member had enquired about CTC installing a couple of water fountains at the new skatepark. Provisional information had been sought. Connection and pipework costs would vary depending on location of pipes but costs were estimated to be £10k and would need to meet the Water Regulations Approval Scheme. This did not include the cost of the water fountain, installation, cleaning and legionella/water management. Due to the rising costs of the car park and drainage water installation would not be taken forward at present but could be reviewed in future years.

d. To note the update from Archus & Mavericks

The latest Mavericks update advised that depending on progress on their preceding project, they still hope to start sometime in September subject to the discharge of planning conditions.

Archus are currently following up on drawings and reports and are aiming to submit these to FODDC for their September planning meeting.

9. Play areas

A. To receive copies of the staff weekly play area checks

Reports received and noted.

B. To receive the ROSPA Play Safety Inspection Report

Latest external inspections undertaken on 5th August 2022. Reports provided to Ground & Maintenance Team to address issues.

C. To note staff training on playground

Two members of staff attended Introduction to Playground Inspection training on 2nd March 2022.

D. To receive FODDC latest information on the S106 position

CTC has received £480 for the supply and installation of two Oak benches at The Green/Church Bank. The benches are accessible and footpaths have been improved.

Further S106 monies are going towards the Hilldene Juniors/Latimer Road playarea by Forest View School for the new equipment only. Repairs and upgrades to existing

E. To receive an update on the Latimer Road site and Steam Mills site play equipment installation

The post installation inspections have been carried out on both sites. Reports are awaited from Kompan. The handover meeting is scheduled for 18th August and Councillors are invited. Due to the recent hot weather there are scorched earth issues.

F. To note the Steam Mills bridge improvement work

Improvements to the footpath bridge have been undertaken to reduce the risk of a trip hazard.

G. To note completion of the MUGA works

Works completed in May.

H. To note a small fire at Miners Welfare

Reported to police (incident 387 09.08.2022). The area has dry grass conditions and this is a risk. .

10. Allotment/Land Request

To receive the FODDC allotments advice

Pre-application advice relating to unused land for allotments at Steam Mills had been received and noted.

11. Trees

To receive the latest tree survey

A staff member had attended a Basic Tree Survey & Inspection Course. His first tree report had been received and was noted.

Council noted that some trees had been removed from the Tesco site. The Clerk would explore whether they could donate 24 trees for the community orchard.

To receive an update on the tree grant requests

GCC had advised they would provide a number of trees under the GCC Ash Dieback Scheme. A community volunteer day was planned for planting

CTC had not heard back from FODDC regarding the Treescapes Fund for the Trees in Towns Project for planting in hard surface areas.

12. General Update

To note the bin requests

Requests for bins in Worcester Road, York Road, Beacons View had been submitted to FODDC to consider.

FODDC have agreed to install bins in Albert Road and one at Crawshay Place. FODDC have advised that Office Road cannot accommodate a bin, due to the nature of the narrow paths. Valley Road already has six bins and there are no plans to install anymore.

Grit bin requests have been submitted to GCC for Beacons View and Stockwell Green/Woodside Avenue area.

Two grit bins located on Tesco land in Dockham Road have been removed. The Tesco site manager advised these were being replaced.

To note the Bowling Club lease signing

The renewal lease by reference to an existing lease between CTC and the Trustee for Cinderford Bowling Club had been signed.

To note any Health & Safety & vandalism issues

Fires - covered above.

Accident, Steam Mills Road - a car had damaged bollards, a wall, parapet and bridge causing extensive damage and creating an additional flood risk. Cllr Morgan had raised issues with GCC Highways and an inspection is to take place.

13. Dockham Road - to receive any update on the green space area

CTC Ground & Maintenance Team are looking after the area currently until the lease is signed.

14. Date of next Meeting – TBC

Signed:..... Date:.....