



**Minutes of the Parks and Open Spaces Committee**  
**held on a remote basis in accordance with the provisions of**  
**The Local Authorities (Coronavirus) (Meetings) (Wales) Regulations 2020**  
**at 6.30pm on Thursday, 11<sup>th</sup> March 2021**

Present: Committee Members – Cllrs S McMenamin (Chair), D Morgan, M Powell  
and J Roberts  
Non-member Councillors – Cllrs R Knoyle and S Knoyle  
Residents x 4

Officers: Ms J van Tonder (RFO)

***The Chair reminded members of the public that recording, photographing, broadcasting or transmitting part or all of the meeting was prohibited. Non-member councillors were reminded their participation in the meeting would be at the discretion of the Chair.***

**1. Apologies for absence**

There were no apologies for absence. Cllrs J Gregory and J Evans absent.

**2. Declarations of Interest**

Cllr J Roberts Personal, Trustee of Glynneath Silver Band

Cllr D Morgan Personal, County Borough Member; potential work with OVV

**3. Committee Finance Report**

Members were advised that, from the start of the new financial year, the RFO would provide a finance report at each committee meeting showing YTD expenditure against budget.

**4. Matters pertaining to the Tennis Courts**

**a) Summer opening hours following the lifting of Covid restrictions**

Members discussed restricting opening hours and the risk of vandalism should the courts remain open 24/7.

Once Covid restrictions were lifted allowing the reopening of the facility, it was agreed to leave the courts open and monitor but continue investigations into appropriate locking systems for discussion at a later stage.

**b) Erection and positioning of wind-breakers**

Members noted the Council had received the new wind-breakers

**Action:** RFO to instruct groundsmen to install the wind-breakers on the inside of the tennis court fences as soon as possible.

### **c) Treatment of moss and algae**

Members discussed the proposed treatment of moss and algae and the appropriateness of using a jet-washer as opposed to a hand brush.

**Action:** RFO to establish best practice and ensure the works are carried out as soon as practicable.

**6:50pm – Marie Powell joined the meeting**

### **d) Options for re-lining of courts**

It was noted that three quotations had previously been received but that these were not readily available for presentation at the time of the meeting.

Concerns were raised as to how the repainting would be undertaken and if the remnants of the previous lines would need to be burned off.

**Action:** RFO to source three quotations for consideration at the next meeting, and take advice on the method to be utilised.

## **5. Matters pertaining to Pavilion and Bowling Green**

### **a) Pavilion roof and guttering repairs**

The RFO advised a quotation had been obtained for the repairs required on the Pavilion conservatory roof and external guttering.

It was proposed, seconded and

**Resolved:** To accept the quotation in the amount of £250 and instruct Alpha Roofing to proceed with the works at the earliest opportunity.

### **b) Schedule of works for Bowling Green 2021 season**

Members noted advice forwarded by the RFO that the Bowling Green could not be made ready for play in time for the opening of the 2021 season.

As this matter was scheduled for consideration at the forthcoming Full Council meeting, nothing further was discussed.

### **c) Hiring out of facilities**

The possibility of hiring out the facilities to groups and individuals not currently using the park, tennis courts and pavilion was discussed and it was agreed to defer this item to a future meeting.

## **6. Matters pertaining to Welfare Park**

### **a) Fencing off and maintenance of brook**

Members noted that, while the Transformation Project may well address the area in question, parts of the brook were considered to be dangerous and would need remedial attention.

**Action:** RFO to ascertain ownership of the land at the western end of the brook and make contact with the landowner

**Action:** RFO to assess the risks and arrange for a covering or appropriate signage, if necessary

## **b) Replacement of metal fence and gate**

Members were advised that one section of the fence had been removed as a result of an unstable post mounting. Members considered and discussed the options including i) replacing the post, ii) leaving the fence as it was or iii) removing the gate and remaining fence completely.

It was proposed, seconded and

**Resolved:** To reinstate the old fence panel with a new concrete footing; works to be completed by Council staff.

## **c) Floral enhancements at the Welfare Park**

Members noted that the floral group had been actively tending to the memorial beds and with that in mind, it would be prudent to wait until after an outline of the Transformation Project was available before considering further floral enhancements.

*7:42pm – Del Morgan left the meeting (prior commitment)*

## **7. Matters pertaining to Maintenance and Equipment**

### **a) Utilisation of old changing rooms as shed and equipment storage facility**

Members noted an offer that had been made by a member of the public to take on the building in order to turn it into a café. It was agreed the Council would need to investigate the proposal more fully.

### **b) Disconnection of electricity supply between pavilion and shed**

Members were advised that the supply of electricity to the groundsman's shed and equipment container was perilously dangerous.

**Action:** RFO to arrange for an electrician to make safe.

## **8. Matters pertaining to Playground**

### **a) Purchase of additional play equipment**

It was noted the cost to replace the broken items of play equipment had been estimated to be in excess of £3,000.

Members considered the discussion that had taken place at the POS Committee meeting on 25 August 2020 wherein it was agreed to progress the matter to Full Council with the intention of reducing the overall cost to the Council of further works to the playground.

It was agreed to circulate the list of parts required with an up-to-date costing for reconsideration.

**Action:** RFO to source costs and recirculate.

## **9. Updates on Projects**

### **a) Welfare Park Transformation plan**

While there was nothing to report as yet, it was noted that in excess of 700 surveys had been completed during the consultation process.

## **b) Canal volunteer group**

As Glynneath Town Council had formally agreed to take an interest in the canal, it was considered appropriate to receive updates on their progress from time to time.

It was agreed to assist the group with a consultation they were currently running and share their survey.

SM advised he would be meeting with the group's chair in the near future to share ideas.

## **10. Other matters for recommendation to Full Council**

Members briefly discussed park signage.

## **11. Date of next meeting**

Following discussion, it was agreed to schedule monthly meetings for the next three months and review frequency thereafter.

Dates of next meetings: 8 April, 6 May and 3 June 2021

The meeting concluded 8:27pm.