

ALICE PARK TRUST SUB-COMMITTEE

Minutes of the Meeting held

Monday, 30th October, 2017, 4.00 pm

Councillor Rob Appleyard	-	Bath and North East Somerset Council
Councillor Michael Norton	-	Bath and North East Somerset Council
Councillor Geoff Ward	-	Bath and North East Somerset Council
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Councillor Lin Patterson	-	Bath and North East Somerset Council (non-voting)
Paul Hooper	-	Independent Member (non-voting)
Sujata McNab	-	Independent Member (non-voting)

12 WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

13 ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

Cllr Norton explained that he wished to stand down as Chair of the Sub-Committee. He nominated Cllr Geoff Ward to be Chair; this was seconded by Cllr Lin Patterson.

RESOLVED: That Cllr Geoff Ward be elected Chair of the Alice Park Trust Sub-Committee.

(Cllr Geoff Ward in the Chair)

14 EMERGENCY EVACUATION PROCEDURE

The Democratic Services Officer explained the emergency evacuation procedure.

15 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND SUBSTITUTION

There were no apologies for absence.

16 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

17 TO ANNOUNCE ANY URGENT BUSINESS AGREED BY THE CHAIR

There was no urgent business.

18 ITEMS FROM THE PUBLIC - TO RECEIVE DEPUTATIONS, STATEMENTS, PETITIONS OR QUESTIONS

Janet Marton had submitted some public questions to the Sub-Committee. The Chair explained that a response to the questions would be sent within 5 working

days of the date of this meeting.

A copy of the questions and responses is attached as *Appendix A* to these minutes.

19 **MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING**

The minutes of the meeting held on 3 July 2017 were confirmed and signed as a correct record.

(Note: Cllrs Appleyard and Patterson disputed the resolution under minute no. 8 as they felt that in resolution (1)(a) there had been no agreement of the skatepark being approximately 50% of the original design and in resolution (1)(e) felt that the word “contribution” should read “surplus”.)

20 **SKATEPARK UPDATE AND DESIGN**

It was noted that the Cabinet Member had now approved capital funding of £97k for the installation of a skate park and further capital improvements at Alice Park. In addition a further £30k had been pledged by the community for the delivery of a skate park.

Mark Cassidy, Team Manager – Parks and Bereavement Services, presented the report and explained that provisional designs for the skate park had been put forward in the summer.

It was noted that due to the time lapse the tenders submitted for the design were now void and officers would now retender for the work incorporating the criteria specified at the last meeting. Mark Cassidy outlined the revised tender brief. Before going out to tender the £30k pledged by the community needed to be confirmed. Cllr Appleyard stated that this had already been confirmed in writing.

The following issues were then discussed:

- Cllr Ward stated that he would like to see some surplus monies to put towards other park improvements. Now that a smaller skate park had been approved he hoped that this would be possible. He was keen to start the work on the skate park and other projects as soon as possible.
- Paul Hooper asked for further details on the project brief and confirmation of the proposed location for the skate park. He also queried whether the views of all stakeholders would be taken into account. He stressed the need for costs, performance and quality to be considered along with the appropriate risk assessments.
- Mark Cassidy explained that the Council had a great deal of experience in running major projects and had overseen the instalment of the skate park in Royal Victoria Park. He confirmed that Jane Robson, Parks Manager, was liaising with the relevant user groups. Trial pits would also be dug in the proposed location to ensure that this was suitable prior to starting any work on site.

- Cllr Appleyard stated that the location had already been agreed in line with the relevant criteria e.g. to protect the boules area and the trees. It was important to move the project forward as soon as possible. He also pointed out the strong demand for the skate park and stated that funds raised by the community should only be used to provide a skate park as this is what it was intended for.
- Cllr Patterson expressed concern about any proposal to redesignate some of the skate park funding as surplus and to spend it on other improvements. She felt that the allocated funding should all be spent on the skate park. Cllr Patterson was also unhappy about the specification that the skate park should be approximately 50% of the original design. Mark Cassidy confirmed that this wording was not included in the project scope. He also explained that the dimensions set out in the scoping document were only a guide to ensure that the project remained below the requirements for seeking planning permission.
- Jane Robson explained that tenderers would require price brackets to enable them to put forward designs. Different price options could be provided.
- Cllr Ward summed up by acknowledging that there remained some disagreement about whether all the available funding should be spent on a skate park. He hoped that the project would come in under budget to enable some wider park improvements to take place.

RESOLVED:

- (1) To note the content of the report and to agree to proceed with two options, one of £97k less 8% contingency funding and one of £127k less 8% contingency funding.
- (2) To agree that the £30k pledged community funding shall be passed to the Council to enable delivery to be undertaken by the Council in accordance with the agreed design.
- (3) To agree that decisions around establishing the lease/licence and the detail of the further capital improvements be reported back to the full Sub-Committee.

21 ORGANISED FOOTBALL USE OF THE PARK - UPDATE

The Sub-Committee considered a report setting out an update on the trial of organised youth football within the park and the actions necessary to reduce the impact of this use next year.

Mark Cassidy, Team Manager – Parks and Bereavement Services, presented the report. He informed members that the use of the park for organised football had been very successful. However at the tail end of the season the grass was sparser due to the impact of sports use. If the Trust decided to continue the sports use then it would be necessary to re-seed the area in April/May using a more durable mixture.

- Paul Hooper stated that the park appeared to be used for football more often

than stated in the officer report. He asked about the charging policies. Mark Cassidy confirmed that the charges for football could either be per use or per season.

- Cllr Appleyard stated that he was in favour of re-seeding the area. It was important to obtain the right balance on charging and how this was managed.
- Mark Cassidy explained that the standard rate for B&NES mini football hire was £25.20 including VAT per use. This was benchmarked to other facilities in the area. The youth football team had not been charged for the last year as this had been a trial period.
- Sujata McNab stated that it would be important to consider the charge rate in the light of costs incurred. She also suggested that rather than look at one charge in isolation all fees and charges for events and use of the park should be considered together.
- On balance members felt that a charge should be levied for use of the park for organised football but that this should not necessarily be the full £25.20 in the first instance.
- Members also requested that the question of fees and charges (including collection of monies) be considered at the next meeting. The report should include indicative activity figures.
- Paul Hooper asked whether the “bootcamp” that takes place in the park currently pays any fees. Mark Cassidy confirmed that they are not currently charged. It was felt that officers should approach the organisers of the bootcamp with a view to charging for this use.

RESOLVED:

- (1) To permit the continued football use of the area.
- (2) To improve the current grass sward by re-seeding to increase dwarf perennial rye and creeping red fescue species. This will make the site far more durable for football use and events generally and ensure the site recovers quickly at the end of future seasons. This seeding should be carried out every three years.
- (3) To fill any holes that may cause injury.
- (4) To request the Team Manager – Parks and Bereavement Services – to negotiate with the football organiser to agree a suitable fee for the organised football use of the park.

22 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

It was agreed that the next meeting will take place on Monday 5 February 2018 at 4pm.

The meeting ended at 5.40 pm

Chair

Date Confirmed and Signed

Prepared by Democratic Services

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ALICE PARK TRUST SUB-COMMITTEE – 30 OCTOBER 2017

PUBLIC QUESTIONS FROM JANET MARTON

Skate Park

- (1) I note that once again the agenda for the next meeting of Alice Park Trust is devoted to the skatepark, with no agenda items on the other pressing improvements required in the park. When will there be a discussion of how to improve the park for all users and not just the skate park group?

Response

The skatepark is a complex installation with an ambitious completion date of March 2018, we must ensure that we do all that we can to ensure the brief is reflective of the census of opinion in order to facilitate progress. With regard to other issues, at the meeting we discussed and agreed the need to improve the grass sward to make it more resilient for the regular sports use, in addition the parks manager and trust chairman are meeting on the site this week to agree planned winter works as defined in the parks management plan and which was signed off in March.

- (2) I am still concerned as a resident and regular park user that the concrete structure can be 4m above ground, and that sprayed concrete of up to 200 cu m will be used. Alice Park is a registered green space, and I assume is protected from over development and excess use of concrete. Can you as trustees and the council officers confirm that due attention has been paid to the requirements set out in the legislation on protected green spaces? There is a lack of peaceful green space in this area, and I am concerned about the destruction of some of that highly valued space for a concrete skate park.

Response

The specific dimensions quoted are planning constraints and are there to frame the maximum dimensions we must stick within. Please be assured that we do not envisage the skatepark being 4m in height above ground level and that it is intended to be of a scale in-keeping with the park to balance it against the needs of other users of the park as you refer.

- (3) Mention is made in the agenda report pack of consultation with user groups, but consultation with residents whose properties adjoin the park is also imperative. In particular details of noise impact and environmental impact should be shared with the greatest transparency. Security in the evenings and especially in winter is important, so how will BANES and you as trustees, monitor the security of the park after dark to prevent the use of the skate park then?

Response

We currently don't have revised skatepark plans but when we do we will present those plans in order to consult with neighbours and users, this will most likely be upon the site and on a pre-agreed date to achieve maximum feedback. Within the brief we are setting out to achieve maximum noise attenuation and screening, we do not foresee that the skatepark will be used in the dark (as they are not in the skateparks we currently have).

Trees

- (4) A number of trees have recently been felled, I assume for safety or because of disease, and I wonder what programme of replanting is in place in Alice Park to replace those trees which have been removed. Alice Park is a registered green space and it is important to preserve a variety of trees for the benefit of all park users as well as for birdlife.

Response

The trees were at the end of their safe useable lives and we have adopted the council's principle of replacing felled trees like for like numerically – these trees will be replaced this winter