

ALICE PARK TRUST SUB-COMMITTEE

Minutes of the Meeting held

Thursday, 23rd June, 2022, 2.30 pm

Councillor Rob Appleyard - Bath and North East Somerset Council
Councillor Sally Davis - Bath and North East Somerset Council
Councillor Joanna Wright - Bath and North East Somerset Council

1 WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2 EMERGENCY EVACUATION PROCEDURE

The Democratic Services Officer drew attention to the Emergency Evacuation Procedure.

3 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND SUBSTITUTION

Holly Dabbs, independent member, was not present. The Democratic Services Officer reported that there had been no response to the advert for an independent member to replace Bill Shaw and it was agreed that the advert be re-circulated to Trust Members with a closing date of 22 August.

4 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

5 TO ANNOUNCE ANY URGENT BUSINESS AGREED BY THE CHAIR

There was no urgent business.

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

There were no items from the public.

7 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 13 December 2021 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

8 CHAIR'S UPDATE

1) Friends of Alice Park update

Cllr Rob Appleyard confirmed that there was no update since the previous

meeting and as the Trust was not able to take this forward, anyone looking to establish a Friends of Alice Park Trust would need to bring a proposition to the Trust. It was agreed that it would be useful to publicise this in the local community.

The Parks and Trees Team Leader reported that the Council worked with the charity "Your Park Bath and Bristol" which was looking at running a programme to support "Friends of" groups and so anyone interested in setting up a Friends of Alice Park could get support to take this forward.

2) Alice Park Community Garden

The Chair updated that following the previous meeting, Property Services had been approached about drawing up a formal agreement between the Trust and Community Garden project to ensure that the project was supported while maintaining a consistent approach to any commercial activity in the park.

RESOLVED that Property Services be requested to give an update in advance of the next meeting in relation to drawing up a formal agreement between the Alice Park Trust and the Community Garden project.

3) Position of entrance to the play area

The Chair reported that the last informal meeting of the Trust had agreed that the entrance to the play area should be moved to the upper end of the fenced area as its current position near the café was causing some congestion.

RESOLVED

(1) That the moving of the entrance to the play area be agreed.

(2) That the Parks Team prepare a costings and estimated timescale for carrying out the work.

4) Notice Boards

RESOLVED that the boards stored at Royal Victoria Park be transported to Alice Park by the Parks Team and stored in the café pending their installation.

5) Repair of Seating

The Parks Manager undertook to look into whether the broken seating had been repaired.

6) Skatepark and Graffiti

Members noted that the skatepark was regularly being cleaned to remove graffiti and agreed that a sign prohibiting graffiti erected. It was noted that the current surface reflected the sun, and the graffiti made the surface less bright for users and it was suggested that a graffiti artist could be commissioned to create a permanent piece of art which may also prevent further unwanted graffiti.

RESOLVED

- (1) That a sign prohibiting graffiti be erected in the skate park area and the project manager be asked if there was money in the skate park budget to pay for the sign.
- (2) Cllr Wright to seek the views of users on the skate park surface and whether a commissioned piece of graffiti art would deter unwanted graffiti as an alternative solution to the regular cleaning of the area.

7) Cycle Racks

In response to a suggestion from Cllr Wright, Members agreed that cycle racks should be installed at the park.

RESOLVED that Cllr Wright investigate options for installing cycle racks in the park.

8) Cherry Trees

Cllr Wright expressed concern that the recently planted cherry trees had been staked and their root balls may be damaged as a result.

RESOLVED the Parks and Tree Team Leader undertook to speak to the Tree Officer with a view to removing the stakes from the cherry trees.

9) Bee Bold Awards

RESOLVED that Cllr Wright research the application process for the West of England Combined Authority Bee Bold Awards.

9 UPDATE FROM THE ALICE PARK PLAY AREA PROJECT (APPA)

(1)Public consultation and engagement

Cllr Wright reported back on the public consultation:

1. There had been 4 consultation events and 291 responses.
2. There was a good range of responses from different age groups with the exception of 17-25 year olds.
3. Most users were local and walked to the park using the facilities on a weekly to monthly basis.
4. Option Z was the most popular due to the pirate ship and zip wire but there were also elements in Option A that were popular, and it may be that a combination of the two could be considered as an alternative option. There were comments about the lack of water play but this was not being put forward as an option on cost and maintenance grounds.
5. The responses also favoured more seating in the location of the play

area.

6. Kensington Meadows was listed as an example of a good local play area and Sydney Gardens as one that didn't work.

It was agreed that an informal meeting be arranged to discuss the next stage.

(2) Finance and community giving

The Chair reported that he was looking into organising a future event at the park in the first weekend of September with external sponsorship to raise awareness of fundraising for the play project.

Cllr Wright advised that the Trust could consider applying to the Co-op community fund scheme.

(3) Equipment sourcing and overall play area plan

It was agreed that it would be useful for Jane Robson, Parks Manager to attend a future meeting to discuss the equipment sourcing and play area plan and also to receive further details about the equipment used at Kensington Meadows.

RESOLVED that an informal meeting be arranged to discuss next steps in relation to the Alice Park Play Area Project.

10 TENNIS COURT - USE OF HUT AND ANCILLARY ISSUES

The Chair reported that the tennis courts were leased to Wesport via the Council and one of the clubs using the facilities had asked if they could use the hut for storage, but as that was outside of the lease the issue had been referred to the Trust. He suggested that there could be a licence agreement to cover liabilities, or the Trust could hire out the hut at a cost. Cllr Davis undertook to look into what arrangements had been made at a similar facility.

RESOLVED that Cllr Appleyard speak to Wesport to discuss options for how clubs could use the tennis court hut for storage such as a licence or rental agreement.

11 ALICE PARK TRUST 2021-22 OUTTURN REPORT

Cllr Wright asked if it would be possible to have a breakdown of the income from commercial activities and the Chair undertook to share this information.

RESOLVED

- (1) That the budget for 2022/23 be noted;
- (2) That the long-term aim for the Trust to become financially self-sufficient, to be achieved by a 10-year plan to focus on expanding income generation, be noted;
- (3) That the Service Level Agreements (SLAs) with the council's Parks department be reviewed and formalised to allow for a more transparent and

robust financial planning process.

12 **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

RESOLVED that the next meeting be held on Thursday 18 August 2022 at 2.30pm.

The meeting ended at 3.54 pm

Chair

Date Confirmed and Signed

Prepared by Democratic Services