

DAVENTRY TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parks, Open, Spaces and Environmental Committee held at 3, New Street, Daventry on Monday 4th March 2024 at 6.30pm

PRESENT: Lynne Taylor - Chairman

Councillors:
Mike Arnold
Holly Steenson

IN ATTENDANCE: Deborah Jewell – Chief Officer (CO)
Mel Ellis-Bland Operations Officer
0 Member of the press
1 Members of the public

OPEN FORUM

A member of the public spoke in support of the No Mow May initiative but suggested it wasn't appropriate in some areas, i.e. The Hollow which due to the length of the grass made it difficult to play football and pick up dog faeces. He emphasised that recreational areas were intended for recreation, parks are for people not wildlife.

The Chair referred to the Operations Officer who advised that The Hollow hadn't been included in the No Mow May initiative, and the problem was due to the wet and humid climate encouraging the grass to grow and the three week mowing schedule struggled to keep up with the growth.

OS2403.1. APOLOGIES

Councillor	Apologies	Resolved
Katie Thurston	Received and considered	Apologies Approved
Karen Tweedale	Received and considered	Apologies Approved

OS2403.2. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS.

None.

OS2403.3. MINUTES.

RESOLVED	That the Minutes (Appendix 1) of the Parks, Open Spaces and Environment Committee meeting held on Monday 20 th November 2024, be approved, and signed as a correct record.
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OS2403.4. COMMITTEE BUDGET.

Report (Appendix 2) noted.

OS2403.5. LICENCES.

Members referred to the report and considered the need to review the process of granting a licence and the need to include in the policy a scale of charges.

RECOMMENDED	That the Town Council review the Policy for Use of Open Spaces for Outdoor Events and Activities and consider delegating authority to the Finance and Policy Committee to approve the issue of a licence.
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OS2403.6. NO MOW MAY.

The council discussed the report presented by the Operations Officer regarding this year's No Mow May campaign across various locations in the town. The program, affectionately referred to as 'Bee Food' by the service provider, aims to foster biodiversity and encourage wildflower growth by refraining from mowing specific areas. During the meeting, the Council emphasised the importance of considering compatibility with dog walking activities when selecting No Mow May sites. It was suggested that designated mowed areas should be provided to accommodate dog walkers and ensure their ability to exercise and pick-up after their pets.

OS2403.7. PLAY AREA.

The Operations Officer presented a report to the council regarding the potential establishment of a destination play area within the town centre. The objective of this initiative is to enhance community engagement, promote well-being, and bolster local tourism.

Key points outlined in the report included:

Benefits: The proposed play area would foster community interaction, encourage physical activity, and attract visitors to stimulate economic growth.

Proposed Location: Initial discussions suggested The Hollow as a potential site, with New Street also under consideration due to its accessibility and existing infrastructure.

Location Analysis: Factors such as accessibility, visibility, proximity to amenities, and community impact were considered to ensure inclusivity and maximise benefits.

Land Value: It was noted that the proposed land for the play area would not be earmarked for future development of other facilities.

Budget: A budget of £200k had been ringfenced for the project, but further exploration was needed to determine the true cost based on location, size, and amenities.

Conclusion: While the establishment of a destination play area was deemed beneficial, the report recommended further research into different types of provision before final decisions on location and budget were made.

Overall, the report highlighted the importance of careful consideration and research in planning the establishment of a play area to ensure it met the needs of the community and maximised its potential benefits.

RECOMMENDED	That a working group be established to explore a suitable location within the town centre and determine the best type of activity for the community's needs.
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OS2403.8. COUNCIL ASSETS.

The council discussed the report presented by the Operations Officer addressing two key items:

1. Criminal Damage to Bins:

The report highlighted instances of criminal damage to three bins purchased within the last three months, resulting in arson. It was noted that there were currently no plans to replace them, following the recent occurrence. Each bin cost £500, excluding expenses associated with installation and removal. A review of whether to replace the bins would be considered at the next meeting of this committee.

2. Southbrook Rejuvenation Project:

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Since 2022, the council has been collaborating with Futures Housing Group (FHG) on a rejuvenation project within parts of the Southbrook estate. Approval had been granted for the transfer of specific play areas to FHG for investment, management, and sustainability. During a site visit, conducted in February with members of FHG, two areas were identified for transfer: a small play area located at Blake Close and another at Rodney Close. To expedite the transfer process, FHG will be issued a license enabling them to carry out necessary works.

RECOMMENDED	The Council authorise the granting of a license to Futures Housing Group (FGH) for works to be carried out on public open space at Rodney Close and Blake Close, Southbrook.
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OS2403.9. CORRESPONDENCE.

None.

OS2403.10. DATE OF NEXT MEETING.

The next meeting of the Parks, Open Spaces and Environment Committee will be held on Monday 20th May 2024.

Meeting Closed at 19:37hrs.

Signed Date