**MEETING OF THE RECREATION, PARKS & PROPERTY COMMITTEE**

**HELD ON 3RD APRIL 2023 AT 7:00PM**

**Present:**

Cllr A Allen Cllr C Burton

Cllr S Brooke

**In attendance:**

Mr M Wells – Town Clerk

Ms A Christie – Assistant Town Clerk

Cllr G Gribble\*/\*\*

One member of the Residents Association

One member of the Neighbourhood Watch Association

**Absent**:

Cllr A Kerswell\*

\*\* County Cllr/\* District Cllr

*In the absence of the Committee Chair and the Committee Vice Chair, Cllr Brooke was elected to chair the meeting.*

**RP&P.23/13 Apologies for Absence**:

Cllr E Kelly – Personal commitment

Cllr O Mills – Work commitment

Cllr K Morgan-West – Personal commitment

**RP&P.23/14 Declarations of Interest and Requests for Dispensations**

None.

 **\*\*Public Participation:**

 None.

**RP&P.23/15 Minutes**:

i) The minutes of the meeting of 20th February 2022 *(\*copy previously circulated)* were confirmed as a correct record and approved.

ii) The Town Clerk provided the following updates from the previous meeting minutes:

* RP&P.23/08) – The majority of Council Lessees have responded to confirm their positive actions towards the Town Council’s Climate initiatives.
* RP&P. 23/09) – Contractor parking proposal will no longer proceed as the counter proposal was not accepted and subsequently the developer has found an alternative site closer to the development site.
* RP&P.23/10 ii) the response from the Cricket Club to the Council’s resolution made at Full Council was of concern and the Town Clerk discussed a temporary solution as an interim measure to mitigate further risk.

**RP&P.23/16 Standing Item – Climate and Ecology Emergency:**

Members noted the Council Declaration and will embed the climate emergency declaration across all Council services, activities, plans and other relevant work, considering the environmental impact of decisions, ensuring a fully integrated approach to mitigating the impact of climate change.

**RP&P.23/17 Friends of Mill Marsh Park (FoMMP)**

Members received and noted minutes of the previous meeting held on 09.02.23 (*\*copy previously circulated*). Cllr Brooke provided a verbal update around items within the minutes and answered questions from members.

**RP&P.23/18 Redevelopment of Mill Marsh Park Play Area**

Members receiveda report seeking considerationof the approval/noting of new/revised tender documentation following the Expression of Interest stage (*\*copy previously circulated*):

Members discussed the individual considerations made in both the Specification and Assessment Criteria documents. The Town Clerk provided a verbal summary around the key amendments and the reasoning behind those which have been proposed as a result of the initial contractor interviews at the Expression of Interest stage. Cllr Brooke gave an update about public consultation for the play area.

**Resolved:** Following discussion members resolved the following:

i) Approval of the amended specification for the refurbishment of the existing play area in Mill Marsh Park, including the revised start date for the works of 11th September 2023.

ii) Approval of the Assessment Criteria for the selection of an appropriate contractor and delegating the determination of the weighting scores to the Task and Finish Group.

iii) Approval of separating the arrangements for the completion of the refurbishment of the Basketball Area and the budget assigned to this, as detailed within the report.

iv) Noted the points of clarification following the initial meeting held on 22nd March 2023.

**RP&P.23/19 Climate Emergency Bovey Tracey & Heathfield – Request to use Mill Marsh Park**

Members received and considereda request to hold a Climate March and Rally in Mill Marsh Park on Saturday 22nd April 2023 (*\*copy previously circulated*).

**Resolved:** Following discussion, members approved the request.

**RP&P.23/20 Matters brought forward by the Town Clerk & Councillors**: (*for information)*

**Cllr Burton** requested feedback on the potential use of Hybrid Vehicles as an alternative to an electric Grounds Maintenance utility vehicle. The Town Clerk will seek a steer from Climate Emergency members.

**Cllr Burton** enquired about the erosion repair work in Mill Marsh Park. The Town Clerk will seek to schedule a firm date.

**Cllr Burton** requested an update around the pavilion redevelopment/letting. The Town Clerk explained that plans are now awaited and an agent has been appointed to market the property in the coming weeks.

**The Town Clerk** advised members that a revised proposal has been submitted on behalf of the Cricket and Tennis clubs for the additional 4th tennis court and cricket nets. This will be tabled for consideration at the next meeting.

Meeting Closed 7.45pm