



**Minutes of the Meeting of the Property Committee
Thursday 6 October 2022 at 6.30pm.**

Present

Cllrs Craig Gale (Vice Chairman in the chair), Barry Barnes, Paul Berry, Philip Day, Dave Homer and Steve Thomas

In Attendance

G Burt, Clerk to the Council
1 member of the public.

28/22 Chairman's Announcements

The Chairman

- a. Advised that the meeting was being streamed to the internet.
- b. Asked Members to raise their hands if they wished to speak and speak clearly.

29/22 Apologies

Apologies for absence had been received from Cllrs Sandy Duck and Roy Margetts - prior engagements. On the proposal of Cllr Craig Gale, seconded by Cllr Dave Homer, **RESOLVED** that the apologies and reasons given be accepted.

30/22 Declarations of Interest and Notification of Changes to Members' Interests.

None.

31/22 Minutes.

On the proposal of Cllr Barry Barnes, seconded by Cllr Phillip Day, **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting held on 15 June 2022, previously circulated, be accepted and signed as a true record by the Vice Chairman.

32/22 Matters Arising.

None.

33/22 Public Session.

Chris Doney asked about skate parks: an update on progress of Jubilee Fields; what is being planned to fix cracks at Natts Lane and is there possibility for investment in some small extra items at Natts Lane whilst waiting for the new park at Jubilee Fields? Possibly a small grind rail and /or a wooden grind box or similar. He offered to investigate prices of these and consult the users.

The Clerk reported that a consultant had been sourced to help the Council with the retendering process for Jubilee Fields and hoped that this would be issued before the end of the year. The issue of concrete cracks at Natts Lane was also complicated in that the original installer advised that the concrete pad was out of warranty; the insurer had asked for (expensive) studies to help determine fault – this was becoming prolonged and the Council

had now asked consultants to advise on a scheme of repair. Additional ramps etc for Natts Lane could be looked at. Cllr Craig Gale was happy to discuss with Mr Doney *offline* about how to bring any suggestions to the Council for consideration.

34/22 To consider renewal of Management Agreement with Billingshurst Allotment Society.

The existing management agreement with the Allotment Society expires in Spring 2023 and the Society were keen to renew, suggesting a new rental tariff. Members spoke highly of the work of the Society in maintaining such an excellent facility, and its importance to the community.

On the proposal of Cllr Paul Berry, seconded by Cllr Barry Barnes, **RESOLVED**

- a. That the current management agreement be renewed.
- b. A new base rental of £500 with an annual increase of 3%, to be reviewed after 5 years.

35/22 To consider installation of Electricity Supply for Men's Shed.

Councillors had previously indicated that they wished to assist with an aspect of the provision of the Men's Shed in Station Road Community Gardens. Two quotes had been received to provide an electricity supply to the proposed site:

SSE	£5,387.31
Crown Energy	£7,057.12

On the proposal of Cllr Barry Barnes, seconded by Cllr Phillip Day, **RESOLVED** that the quote from SSE in the sum of £5,387.31 be accepted and the F&GP Committee be **RECOMMENDED** to provide CIL funds accordingly.

36/22 To consider replacement barrier at entrance to Jubilee Fields.

The Committee considered a proposal to replace the height barrier at the entrance to Jubilee Fields with a more user-friendly barrier, which would hopefully discourage those who can't be bothered to lock the existing one.

On the proposal of Cllr Dave Homer, seconded by Cllr Paul Berry, **RESOLVED** that the quote from J. B. Corrie & Co. in the sum of £3,794.76 be accepted and the F&GP Committee be **RECOMMENDED** to provide CIL funds accordingly. [Clerk to check if the figure includes removal of the old barrier.]

37/22 To receive the results from the South & South East in Bloom competition.

The Committee was pleased see that both Station Road Community Gardens and the village itself managed to maintain their previous standings of Silver Gilt and Silver respectively in the South & South East in Bloom competition. Locally, the Billingshurst in Bloom competition had been very well supported, with awards presented the previous week.

NOTED

38/22 To agree one off cont. to water costs for two local clubs due to water leak across Council land.

Members received a report on an ongoing issue about a possible water leak between Lower Station Road and the Scout and Tennis Clubs, resulting in high water bills for the clubs. No leak had been found on the Council's land to date. Investigations were ongoing, and the Council needed to also resolve the issue of ongoing responsibility. As a site meeting was to be held shortly with interested parties and Southern Water, it was agreed to **DEFER** pending further information. Cllr Craig Gale offered to attend the site meeting if available.

39/22 To receive property updates for information only.

NOTED. The Committee's usual thanks to officers for their endeavours were noted.

40/22 Any other matters for information only.

None.

41/22 Date of Next Meeting: 16 November 2022.

The meeting finished at 7.09pm

Chairman

Date