



**Minutes of the Meeting of the Property Committee  
at the Billingshurst Centre  
Wednesday 19 March 2025 at 7pm**

**Present**

Cllrs Phillip Day (Vice Chairman, in the chair), Edna Bengier, Paul Berry, Sandy Duck (until Min17/25), Craig Jones and Steve Thomas.

**In Attendance**

G Burt, Clerk to the Council  
Dis Cllr S Bateman  
1 Member of the public

**10/25 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.
- c. Mobile 'phones should either be switched off or silenced.

**11/25 Apologies**

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Craig Gale for approved reasons. On the proposal of Cllr Phillip Day, seconded by Cllr Edna Bengier **RESOLVED** that the apology and reason given be accepted.

**12/25 Declarations of Interest and Notification of Changes to Members' Interests**

None.

**13/25 Minutes**

On the proposal of Cllr Sandy Duck seconded by Cllr Edna Bengier **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting held on 15 January 2025, previously circulated, be accepted and signed as a true record by the Chairman of the meeting.

**14/25 Clerk's Report**

None.

**15/25 Public Session**

None

**16/25 Presentation by Dis Cllr Sam Bateman on work being done at HDC to improve play area design**

Dis Cllr Sam Bateman gave an overview of the work she had been doing chairing a *Task & Finish Gp* at HDC, the aim being to make play facilities more inclusive, particularly for females. She highlighted local surveys and best practice developed elsewhere. She hoped that if the group's findings were endorsed by HDC's Overview & Scrutiny Ctte in the near future, then its

recommendation could not only be adopted by HDC but by parishes also which were responsible for many of the district's play facilities. She then answered several questions.

**17/25 To receive update on provision of new pathway at Station Road Community Gardens**

At the last meeting, Cllrs had authorised the Clerk in liaison with the Cttee Chairman, to seek revised quotes from the three remaining tenderers, and appoint accordingly. It was NOTED that the quote from Arbour Landscapes in the sum of £30,550 had been accepted accordingly, subject to securing the balance of \$106 funds from WSCC.

**18/25 To consider improvement of link between Manor Fields and Bypass Path**

Officers reported that discussions had commenced between HDC and the Council regarding improving the often water-logged pedestrian link between Manor Fields and the Bypass Path. NOTED

**19/25 To consider extensive repairs to play area at Cherry Tree Close**

Two options had been received from the same contractor to undertake major repairs at Cherry Tree Close Play Area. The equipment had been installed by Sutcliffe Play originally and it was appropriate that the repairs be undertaken by them also. As the quotes were for between £19,769 and £22,849, ordinarily three quotes would be sought. However, due to the bespoke nature of the work, on the proposal of Cllr Steve Thomas, seconded by Cllr Craig Jones **RECOMMEND** to Council that Financial Regulations be waived on this occasion as the work is of a bespoke nature, in accordance with Financial Regulation 11.1d, and that Option 1, in the sum of £19,769.27 from Sutcliffe Play, be accepted accordingly.

**20/25 To consider future of play area Land at Cranham Avenue**

The Council had received an expression of interest from a resident of Cranham Avenue to include part or all of an adjoining small play area into their garden. Officers had for some time been pondering the future of the site which was very small and appeared to be little used. On the proposal of Cllr Phillip Day seconded by Cllr Craig Jones **RESOLVED** that the Council survey local opinion on the future of the facility and report back accordingly.

**21/25 To approve assignment of new sublease at Billingshurst Children's and Family Centre (C4C)**

WSCC, the lessee of land upon which the Children & Family Centre stood at Station Road, had sought landlord's consent to assign a new sublease to Wakoos/C4C for the whole of the building, of which they had previously only part occupied. On the proposal of Cllr Paul Berry, seconded by Cllr Steve Thomas **RESOLVED** that landlord's consent be granted accordingly.

**22/25 To receive property updates for information only**

NOTED. The Committee's usual thanks to Officers for their endeavours were noted. Cllr Steve Thomas was assured that a report on usage etc at *The Depot* 83a High St was going to the following week's F&GP Cttee. A Councillor asked if the EOs have sufficient storage? The Clerk advised that staff always claim to require more storage (!) but thought was being given to perhaps siting a small steel container in an unobtrusive location.

**23/25 Date of Next Meeting: 14 May 2025**

*The meeting finished at 7.46pm.*

Chairman

Date