

## MINUTES OF THE OPEN SPACES COMMITTEE

*Minutes of the open spaces committee meeting of Theale Parish Council held in the Peter Gooch Room, Pavilion on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> September 2021*

**Members present:** Cllrs A Clark, P Clifford (chairman), S Coker, Z Fenwick, R Gallop, K Gash & M Paul.

**Clerk:** P Manley

**Administration officer:** J Crisp

**Others present:** Tim Bird (area manager, Proludic), Oscar Lorraine (national sales manager, Proludic), A Macro (district councillor), two members of the public

*Meeting started 7:30pm*

### **OPE/10/21/22 To receive apologies for absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Cox, Hopcroft & Richardson.

Cllr Clifford welcomed Tim Bird and Oscar Lorraine from Proludic, who were to present their proposals for the MUSA and play area to the committee.

### **OPE/11/21/22 To adopt the minutes of the meeting on 28<sup>th</sup> July 2021**

Proposed by Cllr Gallop, seconded by Cllr Gash, with a vote of 5 in favour with 2 abstentions, it was

**RESOLVED** to adopt the minutes of the meeting on 28<sup>th</sup> July 2021 as an accurate record of the meeting.

There were no matters arising from the minutes.

### **OPE/12/21/22 To receive design proposals for the new Multi Use Sports Area (MUSA) and play area from Tim Bird (Proludic)**

Tim introduced himself and Oscar, before giving a brief background to Proludic.

- Children are 'at the heart' of the organisation
- Emphasis on 'access for all' – all ages, abilities, experience, especially girls/women
- Proludic's proposal is a base for discussion

Cllr Clifford emphasised the objective of using the council's *open* space. He also told the committee that Proludic was present to propose ideas and impart professionals' advice, nothing was 'set in stone', and the tender process would still follow.

Tim presented Proludic's proposal for a MUSA (see attachments). This consisted of a traditional multi-use court (MUGA) with running track, a concrete table tennis table, aeroskate area, trampolines, street fitness area, gym area, fitness area and social area.

### **OPE/13/21/22 Public forum**

Member of public: Was Proludic given a budget? (No. Budget dependent on outcome of grant applications. Proludic's proposals to help form ideas before allocating monies.)

Member of public: Can there be a coffee kiosk? Cllr Gallop stated that residents had asked for this and public toilets during councillor walk-arounds.

Cllr Macro: Will the facility be locked at night? Concerns of antisocial behaviour after reports on Burghfield Parish Council's experience. Cllr Clifford mentioned possible preventative measures, such as CCTV and security lights.

Cllr Macro raised the need to be mindful of residences nearby and the noise impact on these. Tim stated that Proludic does decibel testing on all equipment to avoid significant disturbance.

**OPE/14/21/22 To agree the initial MUSA design to present to public groups for consultation**

Cllr Clifford proposed that the committee make key decisions such as whether the public should be charged for use of the MUSA, and the number of 'zones'.

Charging for use of facilities

The clerk outlined the VAT implications if the council were to introduce a hire. Cllrs Clark and Paul suggested charging for night-time use would generate income. Others were against charging, stating that the cost of management would exceed the income generated. Cllr Coker stated that no football club would want to pay to use the proposed MUGA. Oscar noted that most MUGAs were for use free of charge.

Maintenance costs

Cllr Paul asked what these might be. Oscar said these would be minimal. Nothing for first five years, other than replacements due to antisocial behaviour. The first components which would need replacement were those of rubber and wet pour.

Cllr Clifford proposed:

**that the design include a MUGA with security lights, running track and CCTV.**

Seconded by Cllr Gash, the motion was put to a vote with 5 in favour, none against and 2 abstentions. The motion was therefore

**CARRIED.**

After a discussion of how many 'zones' should be included in the design, Cllr gallop proposed:

**that the committee use Proludic's MUSA design as it is to present to the public for consultation.**

Seconded by Cllr Paul, the motion was put to a vote with 7 in favour. The motion was therefore

**CARRIED.**

Tim said that Proludic could assist with the consultation through use of a 'concept board'.

**OPE/17/21/22 To agree the initial play area design to present to public groups for discussion**

Tim presented Proludic's proposal for a new play area (see attachments).

Tim recommended the addition of a zip line (circa £10,000) as an addition to be installed outside the play area, as, in his experience, this was a popular feature.

Cllr Gash proposed:

**that the committee use Proludic's play area design as it is plus a zip wire to present to the public for consultation.**

Seconded by Cllr Fenwick, the motion was put to a vote with 7 in favour. The motion was therefore

**CARRIED.**

*The meeting ended at 9:20pm.*

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Dated \_\_\_\_\_