

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 16th February 2022

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

Clerk: P Manley

Others present: None

Meeting started 7:30pm

OPE/18/21/22 To receive apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Hopcroft.

OPE/19/21/22 To adopt the minutes of the meeting on 13th September 2021

Proposed by Cllr Gash, seconded by Cllr Gallop, with a vote in favour with two abstentions, it was

RESOLVED to adopt the minutes of the meeting on 13th September 2021 as an accurate record of the meeting.

There were no matters arising from the minutes.

OPE/21/21/22 Public forum

No members of public present.

OPE/22/21/22 To receive the results of the consultation conducted in November 2021

Cllr Clifford guided the committee through the salient points of the consultation results, including:

- a overwhelmingly positive responses
- b need for inclusive equipment
- c importance of budgeting for maintenance.

The prepared draft tender accounted for the feedback received.

The following questions were raised:

- a *Given the comments asking for tennis courts, why the lack of tennis nets and markings in the MUGA? Courts are available for hire at Theale Green School. Including tennis markings would benefit relatively few people for the amount of space dedicated.*
 - b *Concern over loss of green space and excess of concrete, especially given the proposed MUGA at the new SEN facility. Will this affect planning permission? The draft tender has reduced size of original MUGA proposal. MUGA at SEN facility will not be available for the public.*
 - c *Is the running track necessary?*
 - d *Is the proposed social area needed given the plethora of benches on the recreation ground?*
 - e *Will this attract antisocial behaviour? Draft tender includes security lighting and CCTV to mitigate this.*
 - f *Is the fence for the MUGA high enough, given the nearby cricket field and gym equipment?*
 - g *Consider extra standalone basketball hoops outside the MUGA, perhaps in the field behind the pavilion?*
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Proposed by Cllr Cox, seconded by Cllr Richardson, with a vote of five in favour and four abstentions, it was

RESOLVED that the running track be removed from the design.

Proposed by Cllr Clark, seconded by Cllr Richardson, with a vote unanimously in favour, it was

RESOLVED that the MUGA fence be 3 metres high at the goal ends and the same at the border with the gym equipment and calisthenics area.

Proposed by Cllr Clifford, seconded by Cllr Cox, with a vote unanimously in favour, it was

RESOLVED to request the unit price for standalone basketball hoops outside the MUGA in the tender.

OPE/23/21/22 To approve the draft tender document for publication on Contracts Finder

The committee considered the draft tender document page by page and made the following amendments:

- a that a clause be added clarifying amount payable in planning permission is not granted or delayed (9)
- b that it be stressed that tenders must be submitted in a sealed envelope and that email may be used for enquiries only (11.2)
- c that mention of CCTV be removed from 12.2 to agree with 7.1
- d that the play area gates be specified as wheelchair accessible
- e that the proposed sites for the 4-seat rotating swing and picnic tables be swapped, space permitting
- f that access to the MUGA be specified as wheelchair accessible
- g that the MUGA have at least 2 entrances/exits
- h that “)” be added after “(red” in the caption to Figure 5
- i that a maintenance plan to ensure longevity be included in the MUSA specification, like the play area specification
- j that the requirement for disclaimer notices be added to the specification for both the play area and MUSA.

Cllr Paul asked whether the council needed to budget for maintenance? Cllr Clifford stated that this would be a consideration for the council when it forms the budget for 2023–4.

Cllr Cox asked that the clerk obtain a quote for the removal of the current floodlights.

It was agreed the clerk would arrange for at least one councillor to be present with the clerk for the opening of the sealed bids in accordance with financial regulation 11.1.f. The clerk would invite all councillors to attend if they wished.

Proposed by Cllr Gash, seconded by Cllr Richardson, with a vote unanimously in favour, it was

RESOLVED to publish the tender as presented including the amendments made above on Contracts Finder.

The meeting ended at 8:58pm.

Signed _____ Dated _____