

BARNSTAPLE TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES of the ROCK PARK TRUST MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE meeting held on Wednesday 13th January 2021 commencing at 2.00pm by video conference.

Present: (Chairman) Cllr A Rennles
Cllrs V Elkins, R Knight & L York.

In attendance: Mr R Ward (Town Clerk)
Ms Sue Petters (Assistant Town Clerk)

RP191 Apologies for absence were received from Councillors P Leaver & V Nel for work reasons. Considered and approved by councillors. (NC)

RP192 Declarations of Interest and Dispensations Granted

Cllr L York as a member of North Devon Council has a dispensation to discuss and vote on all items on the agenda unless the item refers to a financial or legal agreement or dispute between the two authorities.

RP193 RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 7th October 2020 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

RP194 Requests for use/hire of Rock Park

RESOLVED: That subject to the Covid-19 regulations at the time, suitable security provision being put in place and mitigations to prevent damage to the park the request from Rowlands Fair for 24th May to 6th June be approved. The Town Clerk be delegated to undertake negotiations for rent and a bond. (NC)

RP195 Town Clerk Report

1. The new grounds maintenance compound is complete and operating, providing four shipping containers for storage, security and a workspace. A visit for councillors will be arranged when allowed.
2. Tree works at the iron bridge end of the park. These appear to be in preparation for the bridge repair works compound in order to remove trees prior to the bird nesting season.
3. Ash Die Back, several trees near the play area have been identified as having Ash Die Back and will need to be removed, the Town Clerk will be progressing this prior to the bird nesting season.
 - Cllr York asked if it was planned for replacement trees to be planted in their place. The Town Clerk confirmed that this would be happening and needs to be part of a bigger tree management plan for the park.
4. A memorial tree request has been received from the family of Mr & Mrs Winfield who lived in Barnstaple for 56 years and passed away recently. The family have made an application to plant a Beech tree in the park.

RESOLVED: to approve the request and delegate to the Town Clerk to discuss the arrangements with the family. (NC)
5. Correspondence has been received by councillors and the office about the condition and accessibility of some of the paths in the park.

The path from the narrowest part of the park heading south for about 300m past the football pitches, parallel to Ladies Mile has received most comment.

RESOLVED: To explore options for surfacing and raising the level of the path and to report back to a future meeting. (NC)

6. Rock Park Toilets: there has been for many years a problem with anti-social behaviour, substance misuse and other related behaviours.

The Assistant Town Clerk has been attending multi-disciplinary meetings in order to gain support for managing the problem.

She has been coordination an “eyes and ears” project alongside our staff and cleaning and security contractors in order to collect intelligence and pass this to the Police.

As a result of this there has been an increased level of policing.

She has also been engaging with the local drug and alcohol services who are working with some of the known perpetrators.

Community safety accredited scheme training is being explored for staff to support appropriate engagement with potential disruptions and anti-social behaviours in the park.

We are involved with discussions on funding from The Office of the Police Crime Commissioner, for additional funding related to CSAS training, including increasing staffing capacity. We are awaiting more details currently.

We are also involved with a new secure online information sharing platform which is being proposed by the Police. This will support fast incident reporting and real time intelligence sharing right across the town for organisations and businesses and can include Barnstaple Town council.

The installation of addition CCTV cameras is being investigated to link in with the refresh of the town CCTV service.

Over the last month there appears to have been very few incidents at the toilets.

7. Cllr Knight asked for updates on several matters:

Condition of the trampoline and zipwire in the play area – the trampoline is currently fenced off as it needs repairing. The zipwire safety surface will need some work, is safe to use but the ground is too wet for anything to be done at present.

The Rock Park working group has not had a chance to meet yet but will get underway soon and should give greater opportunity for friends of the park to get involved.

The Lodge is currently vacant and potential tenants being sought, it currently is registered for Community Arts Use (D5). It is understood that a full planning application is needed to change this.

The park information boards look like they could do to be refreshed, the Town Clerk will investigate to see if we still have the original artwork.

RESOLVED: It was agreed to note the Town Clerk report. (NC)

RP196 Annual Report and Accounts 2019-20

Members considered the draft annual report and accounts for 2019-20 as shown at Appendix 1 to these minutes.

RESOLVED: That the annual report and accounts for 2019-20 be received and approved for submission to the Charity Commission.

Meeting closed 15.04pm.

Chairman.

Signed.....

Dated.....

DRAFT