

BARNSTAPLE TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES of the ROCK PARK TRUST MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE meeting held on Wednesday 3rd November 2021 commencing at 7.00pm in the Guildhall, Butcher's Row.

Present: (Chairman) Cllr A Rennles
Cllrs V Elkins, P Leaver & V Nel.

In attendance: Mr R Ward (Town Clerk)
D Smith – Friend of Rock Park
I Williams – Friend of Rock Park & Blue Elephant CIO
G Maynard – Chair of SAS Football Club
G Evans – Chair of Eastside Football Club

RP203 Apologies for absence were received from Councillors R Knight (COP 26), L York (Health) & A Shah (work). Considered and approved by councillors. (NC)

RP204 No declarations of Interest and Dispensations declared.

RP205 **RESOLVED:** That the minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 14th July 2021 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman (NC).

RP206 Budget Variance Report

The full years grant from the Town Council has now been paid into the account.

The Town Clerk highlighted that there has been a problem with the tap on the exterior of the toilets that has led to a substantial overspend, current actual spend £3,756 annual budget £2,000. The tap is currently switched off and options will be considered as to how to better manage this facility.

RESOLVED: To note the budget variance report (NC).

RP207 Independent Examiners Report to the Trustees for the financial year 20-21

RESOLVED: To note the report that will form part of the annual return to the Charity Commission in January (NC).

RP208 Discussion with football club representatives.

Gina Maynard introduced herself as the Chair of the Saturday Afternoon Soccer (SAS) Football Club. They have eight youth teams and a lady's team and play on both Saturdays and Sundays in the park. They have been using the park for six to seven years.

Gary Evans introduced himself as the chair of Eastside Football Club. They have six youth teams and have been using the park for four to five years. A few years ago, they installed their container at the park to store their equipment.

Both clubs feel that the football pitches are well maintained, compared to some of the others they get to play on and the drainage is pretty good.

Gina asked if it was possible to have a sign or road marking asking car drivers to keep the ramp near the container clear for emergency vehicle access, The Town Clerk will investigate if this is possible.

RESOLVED: To note the update from the football clubs and thanked them for attending (NC).

RP209 Proposal for music events in Rock Park from the Blue Elephant Community Interest Company.

The proposal is for an event on 8th & 9th July, the booking would be from the 6th to 11th to allow for setting up. The proposed operating times are 4.00pm to 10.00pm Friday and 2.00pm to midnight Saturday.

12 local bands and one headline act have been booked for the event.

Councillors asked:

- For reassurance about security, insurance and Police engagement, car parking, noise nuisance, drinks being sold in glass and access via the Iron bridge which is currently closed.
- That the appropriate licence be in place for the event to proceed.
- Mr Williams reported that they have been in contact with the Police.

RESOLVED: To approve the request for the event to proceed subject to the requirements for the licence to use the park being met (NC).

RP210 A proposal for the implementation of the Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) and dog control around the football pitches and play area.

An option is available through the PSPO for a total ban of dogs from the football pitches.

It was felt by the committee that this was too extreme an action to take at this stage and it was proposed that signage asking dog walkers to pick up after their dogs and to accompany this with a communications strategy with leaflets and social media.

RESOLVED: To approve the strategy of signs and communications and to review the effectiveness and see if this makes a difference (NC).

RP211 A proposal for footpath improvements in Rock Park.

The Town Clerk presented a plan based on requests that have been received for improvements to the footpaths in the park.

RESOLVED: To approve the plan presented and ask that prices be sought to enable us to understand how much to budget for the works (NC).

RP212 A proposal to install a safety surface around the fitness equipment up to a cost of £5,000.

Councillors asked that if it is going to be chipped bark to check if there has previously been a problem with broken glass as this can be a safety issue.

RESOLVED: To approve the installation of a new safety surface around the fitness equipment up to the value of £5,000 (NC).

RP214 A request to either replace a bench with a new one or put a commemorative plaque on an existing bench in memory of a local resident's son who has recently passed away.

RESOLVED: To approve the request (NC).

Meeting closed 8.10pm.

Chairman.

Signed.....

Dated.....