

BARNSTAPLE TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES of the ROCK PARK TRUST meeting held on Wednesday 12th January 2022 commencing at 7.00 pm in the Guildhall, Butchers Row, Barnstaple.

Present: A Rennles (Chair)
Cllrs R Knight and P Leaver.

In attendance: R Ward, Town Clerk
F Webber, Barnstaple in Bloom
C Edwards, Barnstaple in Bloom
I Williams, Blue Elephant Community Interest Company

Apologies: Cllrs V Elkins (Vice-Chair), L York, A Shah and V Nel.
G Maynard, SAS Football Club
D Smith, Friend of Rock Park

215 To receive and approve apologies for absence.

Apologies and reasons for absence were received and approved (NC)

216 To receive any dispensations and disclosable pecuniary or other interests.

No declarations of interest received

217 Minutes of the Last Meeting

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 3rd November 2021 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman (NC).

218 Budget Variance Report

Cllr Leaver asked if a comparison had been made between the costs in relation to the delivery of the maintenance of the park under the previous contract and the change to direct delivery.

He understands that costs were not the only reason for the change and the improvements to the park are already very evident.

The Town Clerk explained that this is an exercise that needs to be undertaken but that the true difference will not be realised for a couple of years once the costs and work processes have settled down.

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

19 Requests for use/hire of Rock Park

The following requests for use of the park have been received:

Dates	Hirer
12 th to 22 nd May	Rowlands Fair
21 st to 22 nd May	Southwest Inflatables
5 th June	Lions Club Party in the Park

RESOLVED: to approve the requests for the hire of the park and to delegate to the Town Clerk to negotiate the clarification of dates and charges for hire (NC).

220 A verbal update from the Blue Elephant Community Interest Company about the Barnstaple Rocks Music event.

A letter had been received from the Blue Elephant Community Interest Company explain that the event will not be able to proceed on the scale they were planning for in 2022.

Mr I Williams explained that a great deal had been achieved in planning for this year that will support the plan to go ahead in 2023.

What had become clear to them was that as a result of opening up from the pandemic there is a great demand for performers, and the related equipment which meant that it was difficult to put the event together.

The committee acknowledged the work that had gone in to trying to make the event happen and look forward to hearing about progress for 2023.

221 Approval of the Charity Commission Annual Return for 2020-21

Members considered the draft annual report and accounts for 2020-21.

RESOLVED: That the annual report and accounts for 2020-21 be received and approved for submission to the Charity Commission (NC).

222 Proposals from Barnstaple in Bloom to work in the Rock Park.

A request had been received from the Barnstaple in Bloom committee for the following:

- a. To be involved in the replanting and managing of the two flower beds nearest to The Lodge.
- b. To enter Rock Park into the category "Pride in Parks" for the Britain in Bloom competition for 2022.
- c. To consider a request from Park School to adopt a flower bed and work with BiB and the Town Ranger team.

RECOMMEND: To approve the requests from Barnstaple in Bloom (NC)

223 A proposal to plant trees in Rock Park to support the Queen's Green Canopy programme

Cllr Rennles informed the committee of a proposal to plant two trees in the park, with the support of Lady Arran.

The location is on the path that runs from Rock Park Lodge towards the river, there are two locations where trees have previously been removed and the new trees will help to reinstate the avenue of trees at

this location.

The trees to be planted will be chosen from a list of suitable native varieties that will be appropriate for the location.

RESOLVED: to approve the planting of two trees in the park (NC).

224 2021 Tree Inspection Report for Rock Park

The committee raised concerns about the amount of work that had been recommended, in particular the number of trees identified for removal.

This is the first inspection report that the committee have received since the change from the grounds maintenance contract and the level of detail that we have received is much greater than previously.

Three trees were removed almost immediately after the inspection due to their condition. Works to other trees will be undertaken based on the recommendations in the report and their proximity to publicly accessible spaces.

RESOLVED: To note the tree inspection report (NC)

225 Proposal for gully clearing of the drains in the park at a cost in the region of £1,850

The Town Clerk explained that the purpose of the drains in the park is purely for keeping the footpaths clear from rainwater for public access and that they do not contribute to flood management of the area in the proximity of the park.

The drains at the war memorial end of the park are part of a system that leads to a tank near the Rock Park Lodge.

The drains nearer the play area will be included in the gully clearing but it is not clear where they link to or how functional this part of the system is.

RESOLVED: to approve the gully clearing works (NC)

226 Matters to be taken in the absence of press and public, in accordance with the Public Bodies (Admissions to Meetings) Act 1960, as the item contains exempt information as defined by Standing Order 81(c, d and f).

227 Cost estimate for the delivery of the Footpaths Improvement Project

The Town Clerk explained that an estimate from one contractor for the full delivery of the project has been received, from this quote the costs appear to be in the region of £45,000 to £50,000.

- a. The committee resolved to proceed with the identified the health & safety works (NC)
- b. To consider getting more advice on the engineering and design of the proposed paths towards the southern end of the park to reduce the impact on tree roots and to better manage drainage

(NC)

- c. To note that S106 funding is potentially available to support this and other projects in the park (NC)

Meeting closed 8.30 pm.

Chairman.

Signed:

Dated: