

**A MEETING OF THE PARKS AND AMENITIES COMMITTEE HELD
ON MONDAY 11 March 2019 at 7.00 pm in the Training Room, First Floor,
Second Floor, Truro Community Library, Union Place, Truro**

PRESENT: Councillors Mrs Butler, Mrs Callen, Mrs Eathorne-Gibbons (Chairman), Ellis, Mrs M Nolan, Smith, Ms Southcombe (the Mayor), Wells and Wilson.

APOLOGIES: Councillor Allen [Councillor Biscoe sent apologies following the conclusion of the meeting.]

IN ATTENDANCE: Councillor R Nolan

Also in attendance:
Richard Budge – Parks and Amenities Manager
Liam Shoemith – Deputy Parks Manager.

363 DISCLOSURES OR DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

364 MINUTES

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 11 February 2018, having been before Council on 25 February 2019, were signed as a correct record.

365 WILD TRURO AND URBAN BUZZ UPDATE

Project Update

Further to Minute 197, the Deputy Parks Manager provided an update on the Wild Truro and Urban Buzz Projects and a copy of his report was circulated at the meeting. A poster (designed by the Administrative Assistant - Parks and Amenities) illustrating the branding/ publicity style which had been adopted was commended by the Committee.

He updated Members on progress in the seeding of areas at Kenwyn and Tremorvah Playing Fields, Open Space (Redannick), Boscawen Park and Shoppers Car Park (Bridge Street). Seed had been provided by Urban Buzz at no cost to the Council; financial support was also provided for ground preparation works. The Committee was reminded funding for the Sherwin Bed at Boscawen Park (by the Duck Pond) had been provided in a bequest and resulted in an attractive pollinator and wildlife-friendly bed. To date, 3,000 cuttings had been taken from the bed to plant other areas in Truro. Mr Godfrey Mortimore (Truro in Bloom Committee) had also constructed a variety of bird and bat boxes which were being installed alongside the Urban Buzz project working with Truro BID Team. They would form part of educational work planned for later in the year. Several other areas would be seeded and planted in the future. He went on say the bed by the Cathedral had also been planted. The Mayor was thanked for arranging £700 match funding provided by the Truro in Bloom Committee, Truro Day Committee, Friends of Sunny Corner and an individual donation of £100.

The Deputy Parks Manager concluded by challenging Members to assist with these and future projects in working with educational bodies, research, funding, manpower and publicity. He also illustrated the powerful publicity provided by social media.

Following the presentation, the Deputy Parks Manager confirmed the Urban Buzz Project was due to finish on 22 March as will project funding which originated from the national Bugslife Charity. The Urban Buzz project focused on pollinators; the Council's Wild Truro project covered wildlife in general. The provision of feeding stations was not currently being pursued at the present time due to the potential problems of attracting vermin.

It was moved by the Chairman, that it be

RECOMMENDED that the Deputy Parks Manager and Mayor be thanked for all their hard work in support of the Urban Buzz and Wild Truro projects.

366 TREMORVAH FLAYING FIELD (EP5/11)

Use by Dogs

Parks and Amenities Manager reported on persistent problems caused by dogs particularly at Tremorvah Playing Field. Staff had regularly reported the nuisance caused by dogs such as faeces and verbal aggression experienced when challenging owners over their dog's behaviour. Signs already indicated no dogs should enter the play area. Additional signs had been put up reminding owners to clean up after their dog and to walk them around the edge of the field, but in fact they regularly roamed across the field. Members were reminded the field was used for playing football (Minute 325 refers) and other recreation. Dog grids had also been turned up the correct way. Despite these actions, problems continued. From 1 April Biffa would cease emptying dog bins; dog faeces to be disposed of in general litter bins. He sought Members' support in tackling these problems.

He reported the Friends of Tremorvah Playing Field (FTPF) would be meeting on 13 March and an idea for a proposed dog agility area would be discussed – perhaps a fenced off area for dogs might be suitable. It might also be necessary to contact Cornwall Council, who provided a dog warden service, to highlight these problems and request assistance in deterring the nuisance behaviour.

During discussion, concern was also highlighted about dog fouling in other areas, including Hendra Playing Field. It was suggested occasional visits by a dog warden might have a deterrent effect.

It was moved by the Chairman, that it be

RECOMMENDED that the Parks and Amenities Manager write to Cornwall Council's Dog Warden Service, describing the nuisance behaviour problems caused by dogs and seeking assistance to deter such behaviour at Tremorvah and Hendra Playing Fields and other areas, as necessary.

The Parks and Amenities Manager agreed to report the Committee's above support to FTPF meeting and feedback to Members accordingly. An update report would be made to the next Committee meeting on 8 April.

367 VICTORIA AND WATERFALL GARDENS (EP/6)

(i) Staff Accommodation:

Further to Minute 322, the Parks and Amenities Manager reported back on potential costs and details of a temporary portacabin-type or wooden building to meet staff welfare needs. He reported a new welfare unit might cost £1,200 per calendar month and a wooden cabin-type building might cost about £2,200. Taking into account these high costs, the roof of the existing staff accommodation would be repaired, retiled and the interior refreshed. Whilst this work was being carried out the Maintenance Team's portable welfare unit would be used. The report was noted.

(ii) Request for Use

A request was reported for the use of Waterfall Gardens as a gathering point from 12:00 noon to start a march regarding the EU/ Peoples' vote on Saturday 23 March.

Pursuant to Standing Order 16(b) – Matters of Urgency, due to the date of the event being on 23 March 2019, the Chairman

RESOLVED that the item below, due to the date of the event being 23 March 2019, be considered as a Matter of Urgency.

It was then moved by the Chairman, that it be

RESOLVED that permission be granted for the use of Waterfall Gardens as a gathering point from 12:00 noon to start a march regarding the EU/ Peoples' vote, subject to the usual terms and conditions.

368 BOSCAWEN PARK AND THE SWANPOOL (EP7)

Project Update - Dredging of Swanpool

Further to Minute 326, the Parks and Amenities Manager reported he had met a potential contractor, but it was not possible to use amphibious piping to agitate the silt in the silt trap and pipe it up to the new Cemetery land for spreading across the fields; there was too much gravel and twig material etc. He would need to reconsider how to undertake the work, which might involve excavating the whole pond and removing the silt for appropriate disposal. Following further investigation, he would report back to the next Committee meeting on 8 April 2019. The report was noted.

369 IDLESS NURSERY (EP20)

Project Update:

Further to Minute 250, the Parks and Amenities Manager reported:

- i. Work on compliance with the CDM regulations was expected to be signed off week commencing 18 March;
- ii. Lloyd Richards (who had been commissioned as a part-time project manager) had arranged for sewage and drainage system work and construction of the new buildings to be tendered;
- iii. Tenders for other works had been sought;
- iv. Tenders would be opened on 8 April;
- v. It was hoped the new Nursery would be open by March 2020;
- vi. A copy of the construction plan which had been circulated to the Committee and to all Councillors for their information was tabled.

The Parks and Amenities Manager was asked when the works would be complete. He explained currently he was unable to provide dates; however, after the tender process had been completed, he would circulate a copy of the plan, with dates added, to all Councillors for their information. A paper copy of the current plan would also be sent to Councillor Mrs Carlyon.

It was moved by the Chairman, that it be

RECOMMENDED that the Parks and Amenities Manager, the Compliance Officer and everyone involved in the work of the new Idless Nursery project be thanked for their hard work.

370 PUBLIC CONVENIENCES (F10)

The Compliance Officer's report was tabled at the meeting. She was congratulated by the Mayor for her work on dealing with the closure, and subsequent re-opening of, the Moorfield Car Park Toilets. The report was noted.

371 PARKS AND AMENITIES MANAGER'S REPORT (EP18)

Appendix A

Members received the report of the Parks and Amenities Manager which had been tabled at the meeting. The Chairman reported Boscawen Park and Victoria Gardens had both been awarded 5-star Pride in Parks awards at the seminar held on 28 February.

It was moved by the Chairman, that it be

RECOMMENDED that very sincere thanks be given to all the staff involved in the work to support the Council's involvement in the RHS South West in Bloom competition.

372 TWO, FIVE AND TEN YEAR PLAN

Appendix B

Further to Minute 284, the Committee considered an updated draft Two, Five and Ten Year Committee Work Plan which had been circulated in advance of, and tabled at, the meeting by the Parks and Amenities Manager. During presentation of the report:

- i. He clarified work to install the new play equipment at Redannick Park was subject to the weather;
- ii. Community litter picks had taken place at Coosebean;
- iii. Staff had been consulted on the design of the improved staff welfare facilities at Boscawen Park Depot. It was anticipated an application for building regulation approval would be made week commencing 18 March. The Parks and Amenities Manager had a site meeting with the architect earlier that day;
- iv. A few snags on the newly refurbished tennis courts would be referred to the contractors;
- v. The project to replace the tennis pavilion had been delayed due to the volume of required surveys. However, plans for the new building had been received earlier that day and would be considered at the next Committee meeting. They would be subject to a pre-planning application. Two pine trees opposite the old building required to be removed but the intention was that wood from those trees would be incorporated into the cladding for the proposed new building. He confirmed the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Planning Committee would also be requested to look at the draft application prior to submission.

The report was noted.

373 LETTERS OF APPRECIATION (EP11/4)

The following messages of appreciation were reported to the Committee:

- i. The Deputy Parks Manager was thanked for his recent talk to the PROBUS Club. He was also thanked by the Chairman for driving her and the Mayor to and from Chippenham for the SWIB seminar last month;
- ii. Councillor Biscoe and the Cornwall Council's Senior Archaeologist (Countryside Advice) both thanked staff for all their help in assisting with the retrieval, removal and storage of the damaged Cornish Cross monument at High Cross following the recent incident; and
- iii. Councillor Biscoe thanked all staff for their work in support of the annual St Piran's Day parade on 5 March.

The report was noted.

374 CORRESPONDENCE

There was no correspondence to report.

The meeting closed at 7.40 pm.

CHAIRMAN

Parks and Amenities Manager's Report:

South West Britain in Bloom (SWIB) Competition (EP11)

The Mayor, Chairman of the Parks and Amenities Committee and Deputy Parks Manager attended the SWIB Seminar on 28 February 2019 and saw some very good presentations on wildlife management and the benefits and cost savings of the involvement of community volunteers and the work processes they undertake.

Boscawen Park – Tennis Project

A staff training session on the new ClubSpark system and its billing operations is taking place this week. The various surveys have now been completed for the new building due to replace the old tennis pavilion. We hope to be able to present the final designs to the Committee at the next meeting on 8 April.

Boscawen Park – Event

Under my delegated powers I granted permission for a cream tea, organised by Mr Paul Caruana for the City Clean-up volunteers on Easter Sunday 21 April 2-4pm.

Victoria Gardens

The Annual Easter Egg Hunts takes place in Victoria Gardens on Saturday 20 April 2019 starting at 09:30. The Mayor, Chairman of the Parks and Amenities Committee and Town Crier will be in attendance. Donations received will go to the Friends of Victoria Gardens.

Friends of Tremorvah

This Group is due to meet on Wednesday 13 March at 6pm at the Salon, Cafe Chaos, 3 St Clement Vean, Truro TR1 1RN to feedback to users on the installation of new exercise and play equipment.

Parks Machinery and Equipment and Vehicles Plant Renewals Fund (EP7/7)

I will be investigating the replacement of two older vehicles over the next few months including seeking appropriate quotations.

Further details of most on-going work and projects are included in the Two, Five and Ten Year Plan - see Item 12 following.

RECOMMENDED:

That the report be noted.

Richard Budge
Parks and Amenities Manager

11 March 2019

TWO, FIVE AND TEN YEAR PLAN

LOCATION	PROJECT/CONTACT	WORK REQUIRED	TIMESCALE	COST
Friends of Victoria Gardens	<p>Friends of Victoria Gardens – John Low (Chairman), Trish Hawes and Leanne Colville.</p> <p>Heritage Lottery</p>	<p>Installation of an electricity supply to the lawns and beds is due to take place over the next few weeks.</p> <p>A meeting was held on 6 March and a significant Facebook publicity and community engagement drive has taken place. It has been decided that the bandstand will be their main focus.</p> <p>Refurbishment of bandstand and top shelter (proper repair and refurbishment)</p> <p>Bandstand - small project which the Group want to raise money for.</p> <p>Replanting (whole plan). The Parks Manager is due to visit the Eden Project to look at design plans.</p>	<p>3 – 5 years to start</p> <p>1 – 5 years</p>	<p>No costings to date.</p> <p>Previous costings out of date £650,000.</p>

TWO, FIVE AND TEN YEAR PLAN

LOCATION	PROJECT/CONTACT	WORK REQUIRED	TIMESCALE	COST
		with $\frac{3}{4}$ completed. All railings have been manufactured and painted. Awaiting installation during the summer.		
Daubuz Moor	Friends of Daubuz Moor Working Party	Working party planned Saturday 16 March to complete path works.	1 – 2 current. Coppicing – 1 – 5 years.	
Redannick Park	Friends of Redannick Park	The play equipment has been purchased. It is being installed by our Maintenance Team at present.	3 months	
Tremorvah Playing Field	Friends of Tremorvah – have secured funding of £33,000 and the equipment order has been placed.	Improve play equipment and fund gym equipment.	Gym equipment due to be installed w/c 1 April.	
Beechwood Parc	Transfer of land from Cornwall Council to TCC	Cornwall Council have completed transfer. Awaiting transfer of maintenance money. Then path works will be undertaken.	1 – 2 years to complete.	

TWO, FIVE AND TEN YEAR PLAN

LOCATION	PROJECT/CONTACT	WORK REQUIRED	TIMESCALE	COST
Treffry Road	Transfer of land from Persimmon Homes and Cornwall Council to TCC. Creation of allotments.	Cornwall Council to complete transfer. On-going.	1 – 2 years to complete.	Section 106 Funding to use land horticulturally.
Coosebean	Transfer of land from Cornwall Council to TCC.	Transfer to Truro City Council completed 15 November 2018.	Complete	
Land at St George's Road (bottom of 'Bosvigo Lane)	Land gifted by John Tann under section 106 agreement.	Works complete.	Complete.	
To cover land at St George's Road, Treffry road, Beechwood Parc and Coosebean	Recruitment of new community warden post to cover these areas. Has been agreed by Full Council.		Job application deadline Friday 8 March. Job interviews 22 March.	Grade G £18,000 – £22,000.
Idless	Moving nursery from Boscawen Park to Idless.	Work completed: borehole, electricity, compost bays, and electric cables raised. Due to install septic tank and drainage. Tender documents prepared for the construction of sheds, Closing date for quotations 12 noon 8 April.	6 – 8 months	

TWO, FIVE AND TEN YEAR PLAN

LOCATION	PROJECT/CONTACT	WORK REQUIRED	TIMESCALE	COST
Boscawen Park Nursery	Clear site to blank canvas. Relocation of staff to new nursery. Staff dissatisfaction with crib room.	Dismantle keep best Greenhouses. Demolish wooden greenhouse. 2 propagators Maintenance Team (2) Toilet Team (3). New potting shed erected. New mess room facility being provided by the summer. Awaiting quotation for works.	2 – 5 years	
Boscawen Park Nursery Site	Possible work with Truro Cricket Club.	Development of sports hall, visitor attraction etc unknown.	1 – 5 years. 5 - 10 years.	
Boscawen Park tennis facilities	Improvement of tennis facilities.	Courts resurfaced Demolition of existing Tennis Pavilion.	Complete. Café design process underway. 2 – 5 years Loops Project impact.	Grant received. Promised interest free loan, public fund loan. No funding to date. Larger Cafe. Currently Cafe staff running tennis.