

Present:

Councillors: Mario Toto (Chair); Dawn Filby, Simon Lorrimer-Roberts, David Newland and Terry Reynolds.

Also Present: Councillor Phil Chambers

Officers: Lesley Sung (Council Manager) and Lisa Emmanuel (Project Support Officer)

PC099 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

An apology for absence was received on behalf of Councillor Ian McColl

PC100 CHAIRMAN

In the absence of the Chairman, Councillor Ian McColl, the Vice-Chairman, Councillor Mario Toto, took the Chair for the meeting.

PC101 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None received.

PC102 MINUTES

Resolved Unanimously: That the Minutes of the meeting of the Projects Committee held on 22 January 2019 be approved and signed by the Chair as a correct record.

PC103 PROJECT HIGHLIGHT REPORT

The Committee received an updated Project Highlight Report. The Project Support Officer reported that the complaint submitted to Milton Keynes Council about the signage issues had now been raised to a stage 2 complaint.

Resolved Unanimously: That the project highlight report is accepted.

PC104 BROWNS WOOD SPORTS GROUND – PAVILION

The Committee received a progress report on the Browns Wood pavilion. The cost plan had been received and the construction of the pavilion was over budget. The full list of value engineering saving proposals had been considered by the design team which had indicated that the identified savings would not impact on either the quality of materials or the lifespan of the building. Savings identified amounted to £202,182.95 and further reductions was identified in the budget for fixtures and fittings to the amount of £6,252 and a reduction in the kitchen specification saving a further £16,758.

The Project Support Officer reminded the Committee that the loan application for the construction works had been approved on 25 April 2018 and that the first loan of £1m must be drawn down within one year from the date of approval. The Public Works Loan Board had confirmed that it was possible to apply for an extension. Any further borrowing would require a fresh application.

The Browns Wood Sports Ground Working Group had discussed a number of options including removing the changing rooms and buildings to a later phase, reducing the size of the hall and accepting the value engineering proposals and finding additional funds to make up the shortfall (minimum of £250,000). The Working Group considered that it would be wise to allow for a further budget of £500,000 to cover all eventualities.

The Working Group had recommended that the building should not be built in phases and either the Council should agree to request an extension from the Public Works Loan Board and seek ways to address the additional funding or shelve the project completely or to a date in the future.

The Project Support Officer reported that costs relating to the pavilion to date was around £150k which included professional fees. Further, section 106 monies of £22,400 towards a sports hall would be lost.

Resolved Unanimously:

1. That Full Council decides a way forward for the pavilion build and considers the following options:
 - Extend the loan period and apply for a further £500k to cover the cost of the project which would include a contingency of approximately £100k.
 - Postpone the build until a future date and investigate alternative funding other than an addition to the loan.
 - Abandon the project altogether.
2. That in the event that Full Council agreed to abandon or postpone the project, it be recommended to continue with the installation of the Multi-Use Games Area (MUGA) as a standalone facility.

PC105 BROWNS WOOD SPORTS GROUND - WIDER LEISURE OFFER

The Committee received a progress report on the facilities being installed at Browns Wood Sports Ground. All installations were progressing.

Resolved Unanimously: That progress of the pump track, adult gym and neighbourhood play area be noted.

PC106 DEVOLVED SERVICES

The Committee received a progress report on devolved services. The Project Support Officer reported that Lovell Johns had been working through the maps and a report would be received at the next meeting of the Devolved Services Working Group.

Resolved Unanimously: That report be accepted

PC107 STRATEGIC LANDSCAPING

The Committee was informed that the complaint made to Milton Keynes Council about the wayfaring and bridge signs had been escalated to a stage 2 complaint.

The Committee was reminded that three ponds at Hindemith Gardens, Mahler Close and Caldecotte Lane had been identified for improvement. All works were being match funded with a grant from Milton Keynes Council. Work had been progressing and Caldecotte Lane required remedial work to overhanging trees and at Mahler Close, further works was required to adjacent paths and shrubs.

The total amount spent to date was £3,020, leaving a balance of £1,980 to complete the works.

Resolved Unanimously:

1. That the quote for the works at Caldecotte pond of £340 + £180 be agreed.
2. That the quote for the works at Elgar Grove of £480 be agreed.
3. That the remaining £980 be allocated to The Conservation Volunteers (TCV) for outstanding works.

PC108 ACTIVE PLAY

The Project Support Officer reported on progress on the installation of equipment at Mithras Gardens play area. Installation was due to be complete next week.

Resolved Unanimously: That the report be accepted.

PC109 HINDHEAD KNOLL

The Project Support Officer reported that the robinia poles for the event shelter was due to be installed next week.

Resolved Unanimously: That the report be accepted.

PC110 PROJECTS COMMITTEE BUDGET 2018/2019 AND FUTURE PROJECTS

Resolved Unanimously: That the Projects Committee budget for 2018/2019 be accepted.

The meeting ended at 8.30pm

Accepted as a true and accurate record