

Present: Councillor David Newland (Chair), Councillor Amanda Taylor (Vice-Chair) and Councillor Aamir Bhatti.

Officers: Lesley Sung (Council Manager) and Lesley Davies (Operations Officer)

OC098 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Councillors Adam Chapman-Ballard, Tate Chapman-Ballard, and Joanne Dooley.

OC099 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None

OC100 MINUTES

Resolved Unanimously: That the minutes of the Ordinary meeting of the Operations Committee held on 8 March 2022, be approved, and signed by the Chair as a correct record of the proceedings.

OC101 OPERATIONS OFFICER'S REPORT

The Operations Officer reported that the field hedge that runs alongside the allotment and the maisonettes on Bergamot Gardens, Walnut Tree had been cut to ground level and the stumps killed off. This work had been completed following a request from the letting agents of the adjacent maisonettes as they were concerned that the hedge may cause subsidence to the properties if not dealt with.

The Operations Officer reported that two black poplar trees had been planted at Hindhead Knoll in celebration of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. The trees will be maintained by the Council's Community wardens.

Resolved Unanimously: That the Operations Officer's report be noted

OC102 COMMUNITY WARDEN'S ACTIVITY REPORT

The Operations Officer reported on a variety of tasks conducted by the Facilities/Community Warden during March 2022. She added that the Warden had carried out a very unusual task of removing a dead seagull on Walnut Tree Sports Ground. The Council had been informed that Milton Keynes Council would only remove dead animals from our public facilities only if the animal was larger than a cat.

The Community Warden attended the 'Have Your Say Meeting' that took place on Friday 11 March from 6 till 8pm.

Makita UK had loaned to the Council, a battery-operated jet washer on a temporary basis. The Community Warden used this equipment to jet wash the floor and equipment at Caraway Close Play Area.

Resolved Unanimously:

1. That the Committee acknowledged the number of various tasks completed by the Facilities/Community Warden during March 2022.
2. That, if found to be useful, enquiries be made with Makita UK about regular use of the jet-washer.

OC0103 ALLOTMENT REPORT

The Operations Officer updated the Committee on the status of the four allotments sites within the Parish. Currently, there were thirty residents on the waiting list.

The Operations Officer reported that the insect boxes purchased by the Duchess Grove Allotment Association can be purchased from MK Snap and work on installation would commence tomorrow.

Resolved Unanimously: That the Operations Officer's update be noted.

OC104 HINDHEAD KNOLL

The Open Space and Play Area are to be transferred from Milton Keynes Council to Walton Community Council in the coming months.

At the last Operations Committee meeting, it had agreed that the maintenance of the open space at Hindhead Knoll would be subject to a separate contract than that which will cover the playing fields at Browns Wood and Walnut Tree. However, before going out to tender, the Council was requested to agree the tender specification.

The Council Manager reported that substantial s.106 monies was available for the maintenance and improvement of open space, which could include Hindhead Knoll and that there was an opportunity to consider any changes and improvements to the area before the final specification was agreed. The Committee received draft a draft tender specification for consideration.

The Council Manager added that Serco currently carried out safety inspections of the Council's owned play area at Browns Wood Sports Ground and the trim trail at Caldecotte Lake and that it would make sense for the same contractor to carry out future inspections at Hindhead Head Knoll play area.

Resolved Unanimously:

1. That the first draft tender specification for the open space at Hindhead Knoll be accepted.
2. That a creative landscape designer be appointed to view the open space area at Hindhead knoll regarding potential for improvement of the area, taking into the account the Council's plans for the area.

3. That Serco be instructed to carry out the maintenance inspections for the play area at Hindhead Knoll, once transfer of the land had completed.

OC105 BROWNS WOOD SPORTS GROUND

The Operation Officer updated the Committee on the activities and maintenance at the site throughout March. She added that the hiring of the MUGA had been minimal, but this had increased recently as it was being hired out on a fortnightly basis for gym sessions, that were free to residents.

The Committee was asked to consider the rates of hire for the MUGA and football pitches at Browns Wood, if in the future the Council resolved to register for VAT.

Resolved Unanimously:

1. That the update on the activities and maintenance of facilities at Browns Wood Sports Ground, be accepted.
2. That, if the Council resolved to register for VAT, the additional tax be incorporated into the current price, with no additional cost to the hirer.

OC106 WALNUT TREE PAVILION AND SPORTS GROUND

The Operations Officer updated the Committee on maintenance and activities that had taken place at the Sports Ground and Pavilion during March.

The Operations Officer reported that ascot railing could be installed at the Sports Ground as an alternative to some of the wooden bollards and she added that the car park barrier was due to be in operation by the end of April. The car park would be closed every evening at 21:00hrs and re-opened at 07:30hrs the following morning, 365 days of the year.

The landscape contractor was working on the cricket square in preparation for the league starting at the end of April. Prior to transfer of the facility, the pitch had not been prepared to the standard now employed and the cricket teams were now looking even more forward to starting their season.

The Committee was asked to consider the usage of the football pitches for the 2022/2023 season. Three Clubs had expressed their interest in using the pitches, two of which had requested exclusive use throughout the season.

The Operations Officer presented an updated project plan showing the status of all the works being carried out. The new external main doors and two sets of shutter doors were planned to be fitted before the end of April.

Resolved Unanimously:

1. That the update on maintenance works and activities at Walnut Tree Sports Ground, during March be accepted.

MINUTES OF OPERATIONS COMMITTEE MEETING
held on 12 April at 7pm in
Room 2, MK Snap Building, Bourton Low, Walnut Tree, MK7
7DE

2. That up to two Clubs be allowed to use the football pitches exclusively and that the choice of Clubs be considered at the next meeting of the Committee.
3. That the installation of wooden bollards or ascot railings to prevent unauthorised access to the site, be reviewed and the most appropriate option be considered at a future meeting of the Committee.
4. That the updated project plan be accepted.

OC0107 COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE FUND 2022-2023 – CARAWAY CLOSE PLAY AREA

The Council Manager updated the Committee on the successful bid for funds from Milton Keynes Council’s Community Infrastructure Fund (CIF) for the replacement of equipment at Caraway Close Play Area. The Council had committed £15k in the 2021/2022 Council budget to match fund the refurbishment of the play area.

Resolved Unanimously: That the Council Manager’s update on the successful Community Infrastructure Fund (CIF) bid be welcomed and accepted.

OC108 PARISH GUARDIANS

The Operations Officer updated the Committee on Parish Guardian activity and plans for 2022/2023. The Operations Officer and Community Wardens will together hold Parish Guardian litter picking events throughout the year. The intention was to hold an event every eight weeks, moving around the parish to capture all areas, planning weekend and evening events.

Resolved Unanimously:

1. That the Parish Guardian activity for 2022/2023 be noted.
2. That the activities of the Parish Guardians be showcased as the Annual Parish Meeting on 12 May 2022.

OC109 OPERATIONS COMMITTEE BUDGET

The Committee reviewed the Operations Budget for 2021/2022.

Resolved Unanimously: That the Operations budget for 2021/2022 be accepted.

The meeting ended at 9:25pm

Signed:

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Chairman

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Date