

Present: Councillor David Newland (Chair); Councillor Amanda Taylor (Vice-Chair);
Councillors Joanne Dooley and Aamir Bhatti.

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

Members of the Public: 1

OC004 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

An apology for absence was received on behalf of Councillor Adam Chapman-Ballard.

Resolved Unanimously: That the apology be accepted.

OC005 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None

OC006 MINUTES

Resolved Unanimously: That the minutes of the Ordinary meeting of the Operations Committee held on 12 April 2022, be approved, and signed by the Chair as a correct record of the proceedings.

OC007 OPERATIONS OFFICER'S REPORT

The Operations Officer reported that the remedial works on the race trail balance beam at Browns Wood Sports Ground, which had been identified through the RoSPA (safety inspection) will be completed in May.

She also reported that the planting of the six trees, received from Milton Keynes Council as part of the Queen's Green Canopy, had been planted at Walnut Tree Sports Ground. The trees will be watered regularly by the Council's Community Wardens.

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

OC008 COMMUNITY WARDEN'S ACTIVITY REPORT

The Operations Officer reported on a variety of tasks conducted by the Facilities/Community Warden during April 2022. She added that the Warden had helped to co-ordinate the eviction of travellers at Walnut Tree Sports Ground.

Now that the Council has two active Community Wardens, the Committee considered the purchase of a hybrid bicycle as a second mode of transport. Costs for two types of bikes were presented to the Committee, one cost £350, the second £450. The Operations Officer commented that the Community Wardens were very different heights and suggested that the Committee may consider purchasing a bike for each warden.

Ward Councillor Vanessa Mc Pake offered to pay £350 for a hybrid bicycle from her ward-based budget.

Resolved Unanimously:

1. That the Committee acknowledged the various tasks completed by the Facilities/Community Warden during April 2022.
2. That the Council purchases two hybrid bikes at a cost of £700 for use by all staff but mainly the Community Wardens, the cost to come from the Council's equipment budget.
3. That the offer from Councillor Vanessa McPake to purchase one of the hybrid bikes from her Ward Based Budget, was kindly accepted.
4. That a budget of up to £1,000 to be spent on the purchase of one hybrid bike and ancillary equipment, as necessary.

OC009 ALLOTMENT REPORT

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

The Council Manager reported that s.106 monies of £3,039.86 from the McCarthy & Stone (Jupiter House) development at Hindhead Knoll was now available for drawn down. The monies would need to be spent on allotment sites in Walnut Tree.

Resolved Unanimously:

1. That the Operations Officer's update be noted.
2. That the s.106 monies for allotments be drawn down and used at the allotment sites at Walnut Tree.

OC010 BROWNS WOOD SPORTS GROUND

The Operations Officer updated the Committee on the activities and maintenance at the site throughout April. She added that the hiring of the MUGA throughout April had again been minimal, but the fortnightly gym sessions, which were free to residents, had continued to take place.

The Council Manager reported that the urgent landscape works relating to an insurance claim had been agreed under the Council's Scheme of Delegated Authority, the cost to be covered from General Reserves.

Serco had recommended that following an insurance claim, it would be prudent to return the area to grass. Replacing the removed trees with new trees or vegetation could potentially result in further claim in the future.

The Council Manager reported that the cost of the works was £3,000.

Resolved Unanimously:

1. That the update on the activities and maintenance of facilities at Browns Wood Sports Ground, be accepted.
2. That, following urgent landscape works in response to an insurance claim, at a cost of £3,000 be approved and that the area be returned to grass with the potential to plant wildflowers in the area at a later date.
3. That Community Wardens carry out the cutting back of bushes near the car park barrier.

OC011 WALNUT TREE PAVILION AND SPORTS GROUND The Operations Officer updated the Committee on the activities that had taken place at the Sports Ground and Pavilion during April.

Resolved Unanimously: That the report be noted.

OC012 WALNUT TREE SPORTS GROUND – EXCLUSIVE USE OF FOOTBALL PITCHES

Prior to the meeting, members of the Committee had received presentations from three football clubs that had expressed interest in using the football pitches for the 2022/2023 season. The Committee wished to choose up to two clubs that would be given exclusive use of the football pitches.

Resolved Unanimously:

1. That the clubs being given exclusive use of the football pitches for the 2022/2023 season were Walton MK FC and Aspley Guise FC.
2. The Committee MK Right Advise and KIKA FC be given permission to use one pitch on alternate Sundays for their adult teams.

OC013 WALNUT TREE PAVILION AND SPORTS GROUND - MAINTENANCE

The Operations Officer reported that the new external doors and two sets of shutters had been installed at the pavilion in April.

The cricket season commenced on Saturday 30 April. Two of the three teams using the pitch this season had played a game and both had commented on the huge improvement to the pitch.

Resolved Unanimously: That the report be noted.

OC014 WALNUT TREE SPORTS GROUND – UNAUTHORISED ACCESS

The Committee received an update on unauthorised access to the Sports Ground that took place in April. The vulnerable access points had now been blocked with a soil mound and The Parks Trust had kindly laid large tree trunks at the back of the mound. The Community Warden had sown wildflowers on the mound, that had been kindly donated by Councillor Jaime Tamagnini-Barbosa.

Resolved Unanimously: That the report be noted.

OC015 WALNUT TREE PAVILION PROJECT PLAN

Due to time constraints, a project plan was not available to view, and the Operations Officer reported that the updated plan would be emailed to the Committee before the next meeting.

Resolved Unanimously: That the report be noted,

OC016 MILTON KEYNES COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE FUND (CIF) BIDS FOR 2023/2024

The Committee was informed that the deadline date set by Milton Keynes Council for (CIF) submissions for the 2023/2024 was August 2022.

Resolved Unanimously: That the item be brought back to the June meeting for the Committee to discuss potential projects

OC017 STRATEGIC PRIORITIES – OPERATIONS

The Committee was presented with a draft future work programme relating to the Council's strategic priorities. The Council was requested to consider long term activities and projects that would contribute to the development of a longer-term Council and financial plan.

Resolved Unanimously That the Committee's future work programme be agreed.

OC018 OPERATIONS COMMITTEE BUDGET

The Committee reviewed the Operations Budget for 2022/2023.

Resolved Unanimously: That the Operations budget for 2022/2023 be accepted.

The meeting ended at 9:35pm