

## **MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE RECREATION, LEISURE & OPEN SPACES COMMITTEE**

Held on Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> February 2020 at 7.00pm at Ringwood Gateway, The Furlong, Ringwood.

PRESENT: Cllr Andy Briers (Chairman)  
Cllr Darren Loose (Vice-Chairman)  
Cllr Philip Day  
Cllr Gareth Deboos  
Cllr Hilary Edge  
Cllr Rae Frederick  
Cllr John Haywood  
Cllr Gloria O'Reilly  
Cllr Tony Ring  
Cllr Glenys Turner

IN ATTENDANCE: Chris Wilkins, Town Clerk  
Nicola Vodden, Meetings Administrator  
Rhys Phillips, Student Advisor  
Ruth Port, Student Advisor  
Cllr Jeremy Heron

ABSENT: Cllr Peter Kelleher

### **OS/5946 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

There were five members of the public present, four of whom were interested in items on the agenda.

A resident reported on the parking situation in the vicinity of the Bickerley and indicated that ~~this was not permitted use of the Village Green under the agreed covenants, included in the contract of sale~~ this is not a permitted use within the laws of a Village Green, or the agreed covenant, as stated in the contract of sale and the title deeds at the date of the Council's purchase (*amended OS/5958 refers*). He requested that the matter be looked in to and brought before the relevant Committee as soon as possible.

### **OS/5947 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

The Town Clerk reported that apologies for absence had been received from Cllr Kelleher.

### **OS/5948 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were none.

### **OS/5949 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**



**RESOLVED:** That the minutes of the Meeting held on 8<sup>th</sup> January 2020, having been circulated, be approved and signed as a correct record.

**OS/5950  
EVENTS MANAGEMENT**

Cllr Day provided a progress report on the arrangements for the VE Day 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Event on Friday 8<sup>th</sup> May 2020. He offered a personal thank you to everyone who turned up to the meeting on 20<sup>th</sup> January and those who have volunteered to help or provide assistance.

A full programme of entertainment is planned to take place in the Market Place and the Furlong. There are some financial aspects to determine and also sponsorship to secure.

**RESOLVED:** That the report from Ringwood Events Team be received.

**OS/5951  
TREE PLANTING**

Members considered Cllr Deboos' report on tree planting and the issues for decision therein (*Annex A*).

He explained that this proposal had been referred from the Ringwood Environmental Action Leadership (REAL) Working Party as part of the RACE project to plant 20,000 trees in and around Ringwood in 2020. It was hoped that in addition to the Council agreeing to the planting of trees on its land, other landowners would come forward and offer sites, along with schools and other groups.

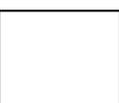
Cllr Deboos clarified (para 2.2) that the planting of 5,000 trees, as requested, would correspond to around 1,000 meters of hedging, in addition to the 840 saplings already approved. The first major planting of saplings (420) is due to take place on Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> February at Poulner Lakes between 11am and 3pm.

He proposed an amendment to recommendation 3.2. In addition to the planting to the east of Southampton Road (Figure 3), Transition Ringwood (TR) wished to plant on the west side of the road. Approval by the Council would enable TR to make an application to the Woodland Trust for a free sapling pack.

The Committee was in support of the proposals, as amended, and wished to congratulate the members of the REAL Working Party and the volunteers for their work in progressing this project.

**RESOLVED:** 1) That the Council supports the planting of a target of 5,000 trees/hedging during 2020 by the Council and RACE on Council land, on condition that they are cared for by RACE for two years after planting, subject to suitable sites being found; and  
2) That the Council approve the planting of saplings at Poulner Lakes and the east and west side of Southampton Road, as shown in the Figures, totalling around 2,100 or so (with the siting and exact nature of subsequent plantings to be proposed by RACE via REAL WP, in conjunction with the Town Clerk and Grounds Foreman, and considered by this Committee at a later date).

<b>ACTION</b> C Wilkins
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**OS/5952  
PROJECTS**

A3 – Mansfield Road verge – Members requested formal thank you letters be sent for the donations kindly received for this project. It was noted that the hedge had been included in the tree planting project detailed at OS/5951. It was suggested that the area could be enhanced further by extending the hedge, however this is not Council land and there may be additional liability implications to be aware of.

**RESOLVED:** That the update in respect of projects (*Annex B*) be received.

<b>ACTION C Wilkins</b>
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**OS/5953  
EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC**

**RESOLVED:** That, in accordance with section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, the press and public be excluded because publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the legal and commercial aspects of the transaction. (*Confidential Annex C*)

**OS/5954  
BOWLING CLUB LEASE RENEWAL**

The Town Clerk provided a verbal report, in relation to recent discussions with representatives from Ringwood Bowls Club regarding renewal of the lease.

He had been working on a number of assumptions and Members confirmed that they were content with this approach.

**RECOMMEND TO POLICY AND FINANCE COMMITTEE:**  
That the option chosen for the proposed transaction be approved.

<b>ACTION C Wilkins</b>
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There being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 7.48pm.

**Note: The text in the Action Boxes above does not form part of these minutes.**

RECEIVED  
26<sup>th</sup> February 2020

APPROVED  
4<sup>th</sup> March 2020

TOWN MAYOR

COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN



## Tree-planting

### 1. Introduction and reason for report

- 1.1 The proposals in this report come from the 'Trees for the Future' Ringwood Action on the Climate Emergency (RACE) team via the REAL Working Party.
- 1.2 This Committee has already sanctioned the planting of 840 saplings on Council land, 420 as a connective group at Poulner Lakes and 420 free from the Woodland Trust for delivery in the Autumn and the siting is to be agreed.
- 1.3 It is proposed that this Committee approves the planting of a total of 5,000 trees in 2020 on Council land, which would be a combination of Council and RACE sourced saplings.
- 1.4 Some sites are proposed for a proportion of the 5,000 trees.
- 1.5 Environmental benefits for the community include sequestration of CO<sub>2</sub>, prevention of soil erosion, adsorption of particulate pollutants to improve air quality, the creation of wildlife food sources and corridors and potential reduction in road noise for plantings close to roads. There are also many social benefits.

### 2. Background information and options

- 2.1 The 420 saplings paid for by a kind donation of £400 by the Council are scheduled for planting on the 16<sup>th</sup> February 2020, weather permitting. The scheme for this is shown in Figure 1 below.
- 2.2 The planting of a total of 5,000 trees would correspond to around 1,000 meters of hedge in addition to the 840 saplings already approved.
- 2.3 A number of sites for hedging have been identified as suitable in conjunction with the Council's Grounds Foreman, two of which are described in detail here. The first, at Poulner Lakes, involves planting a hedge adjacent to the otter-proof fence between Council land and Northfield Lake, which would improve the visual amenity of the area. The scheme for this is shown in Figure 2 below. It is proposed that the Council apply for one of the free Autumn Woodland Trust 420 sapling hedge packs for this site, which would plant 100m. As the length of the site is well over 200m, it is proposed that RACE plant 100m or so of hedge in the Spring and/or Autumn at their expense.
- 2.4 The second site, by Southampton Road, would see the planting of a screening hedge along the fence by the A31. The hedging trees will give improved visual amenity, from blossom and berries, food and shelter for wildlife and some improvement to air quality. By 'scaloping' the hedge, small areas would be created for wild flower planting to be carried out by Transition Ringwood in agreement with Council grounds staff. The scheme for this is shown in Figure 3 below. It is proposed that RACE apply for one of the free Autumn Woodland Trust 420 sapling hedge packs for this site supplemented by additional saplings as required funded and supplied by RACE.
- 2.5 Although other sites for hedges and a small number of conventional tree plantings have also been identified, RACE does not yet have the funding to support a formal proposal to this Committee. Sites include the other side of Southampton Road (see Annexe C map), Ash Grove play area (to screen from the planned new development) and a site to the south of Poulner Junior School.
- 2.6 In the first year, 5,000 saplings would be expected to sequester about 0.5 tonne of CO<sub>2</sub>, equivalent to the offsetting of Carvers Footway lighting annual electricity use. At maturity, the annual sequestration rate would be expected to be over 50

# A

tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>, equivalent to the amount generated by Council electricity use at the Gateway and Carvers Clubhouse combined.

- 2.7 The RACE charity would care for the saplings for the first two years after planting to allow them to establish. Thereafter, Council grounds staff would maintain the trees. There will be no direct financial cost to the Council.

### 3. Issues for decision and any recommendations

- 3.1 **Whether to support the planting of a target of 5,000 trees during 2020 by the Council and RACE on Council land, on condition that they are cared for by RACE for two years after planting.**

- 3.2 **Whether to approve the planting of saplings at Poulner Lakes and Southampton Road as shown in the Figures, totalling around 1,700 or so (with the siting and exact nature of subsequent plantings to be proposed by RACE via REAL WP, in conjunction with the Town Clerk and Grounds Foreman, and considered by this Committee at a later date).**

For further information, contact:

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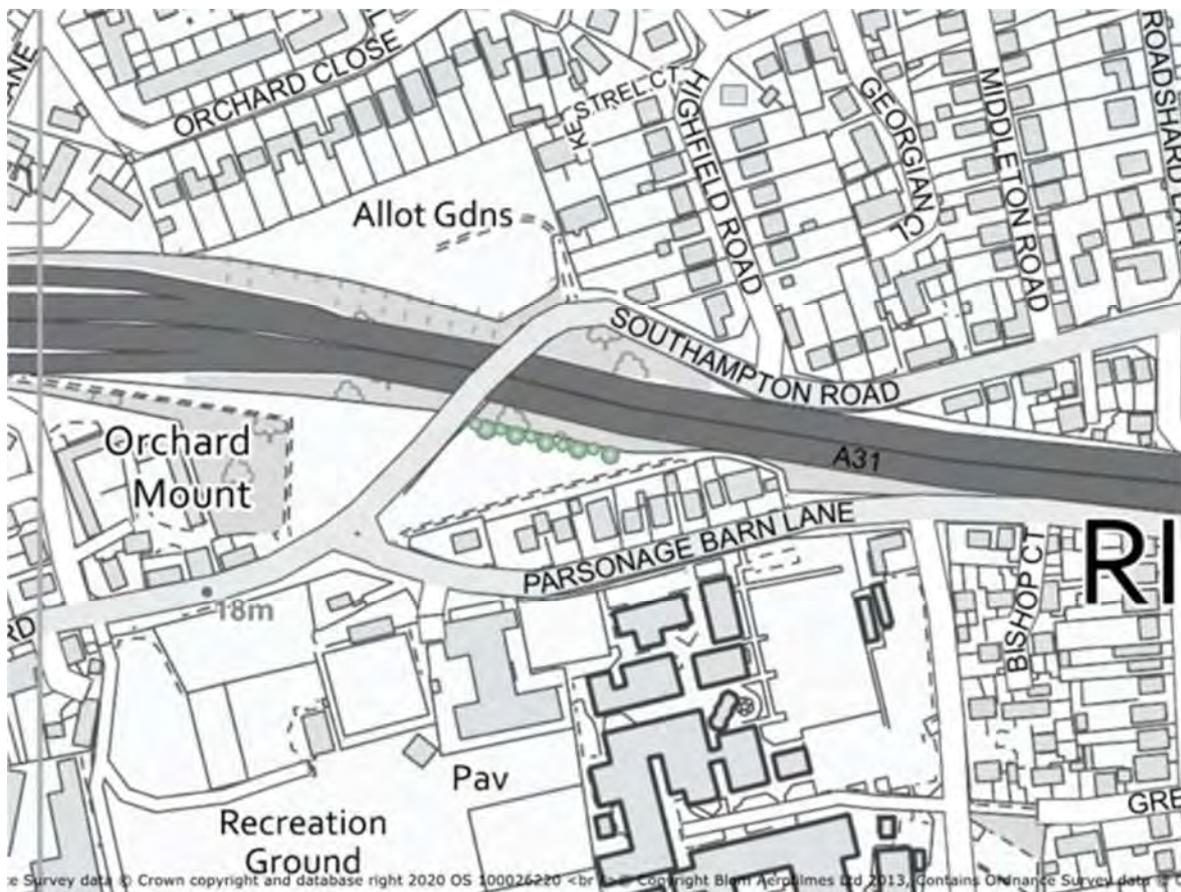
Figure 1 – Connective group planting at Poulner Lakes



Figure 2 – Proposed fence-screening planting at Poulner Lakes



Figure 3 – Proposed road-screening planting at Southampton Road





Item No.	Name	Recent developments	Resource use				Finish in 2019-20?	Notes
			Finance			Staff time		
			Cost & source	Spent to date	Predicted out-turn			
<b>Projects with budgetary implications (bids included in 2019-20 budget)</b>								
A1	Play equipment replacement	Painting and snagging issues have been resolved. The final stage payment has been released.	£44,000 Reserves	£44,000	£44,000	Minimal	Finished	Funded £40K from earmarked reserve with balance from general reserve. This item will not be updated further.
A2	War Memorial repairs	Revised tenders have been received and the grant application submitted to War Memorials Trust.	£10,000 Grant and budget	£125	Uncertain	Significant	Very unlikely	Carried forward from 2018-19. Pre-application grant form has been approved by WMT. Awarding of the works contract and timing of the works will depend on the outcome of the grant application.
A3	Mansfield Road verge	The new hedge has been planted by Council grounds staff and will be monitored and maintained by them.	£585 Donations	£585	£585	Minimal	Definite	Carried forward from 2018-19. This item will not be updated further.
A4	Carvers Rec improvements	See minutes of November committee meeting.	£10,000 CIL	£4,300	£10,000	Moderate	Probable	Carried forward from 2018-19. Officers will work to implement the decisions taken in November shortly
A5	Grounds department workshop & store facilities	Tendering for the feasibility study is in hand.	£3,000 Budget	£0	£3,000	Moderate	Possible (study only)	Feasibility study into consolidating workshop and storage facilities in new secure facility (inc. financial impacts of implementation)
A6	Tree Management Plan - Survey	SLA entered into with NFDC. Updated advice received on progress and impact of Ash die-back. The first site reports now received.	£5,416	£0	£5,416	Minimal	No	An initial three-year programme to create a database to inform a rolling tree safety inspection regime across the Council's estate
A7	Tree Management Plan – Tree works	Tree works confined to urgent cases only pending outcome of survey work.	£8,060	£0	£8,060	Moderate	N/A	Implementation of the new policy on prioritised tree safety work

A8	Christmas Lights – Replacement/re-procurement	Officers working with contractor to implement agreed scheme.	£17,000 Budget	£0	£17,000	Moderate	Essential	A meeting between the panel members, the contractors and officers will be organised shortly.
A9	Pocket Park Boardwalk	The Food Defence Permit has been issued and a purchase order placed. Work is expected to commence once ground conditions allow.	£15,585 Earmarked reserves	£11,085	£15,585	Moderate	Probable	The timber boardwalk is being replaced with one built from more robust and durable composite materials and the works have been arranged with regard to procurement, environmental protection, safety and insurance considerations.
<b>Projects with budgetary implications (not included in 2019-20 budget but added since)</b>								
<b>Projects with no budgetary implications in 2019-20</b>								
C1	Long Lane recreation facilities development feasibility study	Advice from NFDC and Hants FA officers on project development received.				Significant	Probable	A meeting of the Working Party is fixed for 6 <sup>th</sup> February at which a full update will be presented and review undertaken.
C2	Bickerley drainage works	Details of the compensation claim have been received from the Council's agent.				Moderate	Probable	Officers are working to secure the promised management plan and conclude the compensation claim.