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Draft Minutes of the Lands and Markets Committee Meeting held on Thursday 16th January 2025

1. PRESENT AND IN ATTENDANCE

Present: Councillors C. Eastwood, P. Dean, G. Knights, P. Wraight, S Rose
Councillor FitzHigham (Chair) – arrived at 8.00pm

Apologies: None

In attendance: A Davidson (RFO and minute taker) and 3 members of the public

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

Two residents spoke.

The first resident spoke on behalf of several residents. There were a number of questions asked regarding the state of cemetery and the resident felt the cemetery looked uncared for and was a disgrace.

The second resident was concerned that essential winter work had not yet been undertaken and time was running out before spring bulbs began to grow. They questioned whether the contractor was doing the job. Cllr. Eastwood explained that the contractor had been doing work around the town and that there was still some catch-up work to do following the absence of a contractor for a year.

Cllr P. Wraight suggested that the contractor should submit a worksheet of activities to help the council monitor progress against the contract.

4. CORRESPONDENCE

Ipswich cemeteries had been in touch to report that a headstone had fallen over. Cllr. C Eastwood asked that the RFO attempt to contact the family and if unsuccessful then the headstone should be laid flat.

A resident has reported ivy on an electrical pole obscuring the streetlight. The RFO is trying to report the issue to UKPN.

A resident has requested an update on the trimming of the trees overlooking their garden from the Pageant Field entrance. The RFO explained that there was confusion over the

quotes and it was agreed that the RFO obtain quotes for cutting the trees down to hedge height.

There was a request from Dennington Hall Farms to allow two tractors to park on the Market Hill for a community engagement day on 25th January. The RFO will reply that the parking permission is the responsibility of East Suffolk Council.

5. CONTRACTOR REVIEW

Cllr. C. Eastwood and the RFO had met with the contractor to review the winter work. It was agreed to ask the contractor to provide a regular report on his activities.

6. FTC ASSETS

6.1. Update on the Bridge Street bus shelter bench

The RFO reported the bench was built but there is delay with the protective coats and the bench should be ready soon.

6.2. CCTV cameras repairs

The RFO reported that the electrical inspection found no fault with the camera power and therefore the only option is to request that the CCTV company fixes the camera.

LAM 2025-01-16 1 Cllr T. Higham proposed to pay up to £200 plus VAT to fix the broken CCTV camera. This was seconded by Cllr Eastwood with all in favour.

6.3. CCTV camera contracts

The RFO had reviewed the proposals to merge the two contracts and recommended that the council look for a more local supplier in light of the need to fix the cameras regularly when they break down. As neither contract was currently due to expire it was agreed to delay this work until the RFO returns from sick leave.

7. PAGEANT FIELD & PLAYING AREA

7.1. Update on Benhall to Framlingham pipeline work

The RFO reported that the start has been delayed and is waiting to hear from the contractor.

7.2. Consider quotes for mowing the Pageant Field

The RFO provided a summary of quotes which were based on 17 cuts. It was discussed that some flexibility in the when cuts are made might be necessary depending on the weather.

LAM 2025-01-16 2 Cllr T. Higham proposed to recommend to Full Council to accept the quote from contractor A of £ 2,518.72 plus VAT for 17 cuts of the Pageant Field in 2025. This was seconded by Cllr P Dean with all in favour.

7.3. Consider any other updates at the Pageant Field

The RFO reported that there was new graffiti on the side of the Pavilion which the contractor was struggling to remove.

8. CEMETERY

8.1. Update on winter maintenance work for the cemetery

This item was covered under item 5.

8.2. Consider options for future burials in the Rose Garden

There was a general discussion about the issues relating to the Rose Garden including the health of the roses and the RFO suggested creating a new bed on a new basis. It was agreed to consider next steps under 8.4.

8.3. Consider quote to update the online cemetery searcher map

The RFO has been updating the burial records and noted that the online map is missing the fourth row of plots in the Garden of Remembrance and this would require an update to the online. The quote for this work was £180 plus VAT.

LAM 2025-01-16 3 Cllr T. Highham proposed to pay up to £180 to upline the online cemetery searcher map. This was seconded by Cllr C Eastwood with 4 in favour and 2 abstentions.

8.4. Consider next steps for Cemetery working group

Cllr. C. Eastwood reported that the working group not met due to lack of members. Cllr. T. Higham proposed that in light of item 8.2, the working group is reconstituted with a specific focus on the future of the Rose Garden. Cllr. C. Eastwood offered to meet with Cllr. G. Knights to discuss options and prepare proposals.

9. MARKET HILL

9.1. Update on Market Hill inspection

The RFO reported that the last inspection had found a faulty socket that was not being used. As the socket was not being used, the socket has been disconnected to allow the inspection to pass. The RFO also noted that the second electrical pit was disconnected and required to drainage to be made operational. The RFO agreed to obtain quotes for both pieces of work.

10. MARKET HILL

10.1. Update on water tap housing.

The RFO requested that work on this is delayed in light of his absence and will be considered on his return.

11. Consider any Trees in a Conservation Area (TCA) applications received prior to the meeting

None.

12. Matters of report

There were no matters of report but councillors raised questions.

An update on the ownership of the roundels was requested. Cllr. T. Higham felt that ownership was established and that it did not require further investigation at this time.

The committee was asked if the council was meeting the riparian rights in relation to the River Ore at the Fens.

There was also a question about whether there was an update on the river course changes along Riverside and it was reported that there has been no update on this topic for some time.

13. Items for the next agenda

Maintenance of the land on the Fens

A review of the finances for the Pavilion to be performed when the RFO returns.

14. Date of next meeting

7.00pm Thursday 13th February 2025

The meeting concluded at 9pm.