

adding that the platform is for viewing and dipping. A watching brief to monitor will continue.

3. Mr. I Saunders: a response has already been provided
4. James Laver, Hampshire County Council: update is noted
5. Scott Goldie: The Committee confirmed its mowing regime for all of its open spaces depends on the activities that take place i.e. sports pitches, recreation space
6. Hampshire County Council: footpath closures noted
7. Jo Martin: noted and resident was referred to EHDC re “No Mow May”

No further questions were received on the evening,

25 Allotments Report

The Committee received the Allotments Report which was noted. Officers were requested to produce a report to the next meeting on water provision to the allotments and further details on water usage.

NOTED

26 Grounds Team Report

The Committee received the Grounds Team Report and noted its comprehensive content.

NOTED

27 Will Hall Meadow Management Plan and Works Program

Members received the final version of the proposed management plan for Will Hall Meadow following public consultation which was presented for formal adoption together with the proposed works program which includes upgrading the access to Brick Kiln Lane, removing the access to Basingstoke Road. The creation of a conservation wetland area with a willow “fedge” to be undertaken “in house” by the Ranger team. Path works upgrade and the installation of a boardwalk for the low-lying areas. All costs for all works to be met from the Will Hall Meadow commuted sum.

The Committee was concerned to learn that despite numerous requests details of the SUDS and Attenuation Pond had not been forthcoming from the developer Redrow (or from its internal Management Company for the site). Officers were requested to go back to EHDC and “push hard” for a meeting via the District Liaison Panel as it would appear that there are 3 compliance issues which need resolution:

- (i) Hoarding should have been removed last year from the Will Hall Meadow site which falls under the responsibility of Alton Town Council
- (ii) Inspection Chambers which appear to have been tarmac over
- (iii) The SUDS system appears to be ineffective with reports that some gardens have experienced flooding issues

On the proposal of Councillor Sharon Cullen, seconded by Councillor Graham Hill it was

RESOLVED to

1. **Approve the final version of the Management Plan**
2. **Give delegated authority to the Town Clerk to issue the contractor for the reconfiguration of the access at Brick Kiln Lane/ Basingstoke Road,**

following a procurement process in line with Financial Regulations, so long as the contract value does not exceed the committee limit.

- 3. Approve the drafting and issuing in February 2023 of an invitation to tender for the path works detailed above.**

28 Kings Pond Draft Management Plan

Following a meeting with the Chair and Secretary of the Friends of King's Pond on Wednesday 22nd June it was agreed with the Committee Chair and Vice Chair to defer approval of the draft plan prior to public consultation. As detailed in the notes from the meeting (enclosed) the Friends requested that there be an "evidence base" adduced to demonstrate why taking the pond off line was the preferred option, including an expansion of the appendices. Secondly, to give more detail of the other options for managing the pond going forward and also to introduce the issue of the volume of wildfowl on site and how this may be addressed.

It was agreed to meet with the Friends in advance of the next Open Spaces meeting to review again once these additions had been made.

NOTED

The Town Clerk provided an update that she had spoken with the Environment Agency just before the meeting who verbally confirmed:

- (i) That a "Managed Retreat" at Kings Pond which would be part of an ecological restoration project was an exciting prospect and once they had conferred with colleagues a written response would be sent across.
- (ii) Offered to advise with public engagements as they had contacts with practitioners who specialise in such matters, but it was acknowledged that ATCs proposals to engage were comprehensive and the Town Clerk suggested that when Alton Town Council undertake these sessions that it combines Flood Meadows with Kings Pond.

The Town Clerk had also spoken to the contractor working on the draft management plan who confirmed they should be able to commission an artistic impression of what the site may look like if the preferred option were taken forward, which had been requested at the meeting with the Friends group.

29 Anstey Park

The following projects (for which full details were provided in the Committee reports) proposed at Anstey Park were approved by the Committee:

- 29.1 New Rugby Posts
- 29.2 Replacement floodlights at the 3G pitch
- 29.3 Resurfacing works to the play area

On the proposal of Councillor Graham Hill, seconded by Councillor Sharon Cullen it was

RESOLVED to:

- 1. Agree to the purchase of replacement rugby posts for Anstey Park, using £8,000 CIL and £600 ATC operating funds**

2. **Grant Landowner Consent and Agreement to be a signatory on the grant acceptance form issued by the Football Association for the grant for replacement lights at the 3G pitch to be arranged by Alton Football Club at no cost to ATC**
3. **Approve Company B to carry out the works to resurface the play area at Anstey Park, subject to final fixed price being received, using CIL funds to the value of up to £19,600 to cover the cost of the works. A further contingency allowance to accommodate minor adjustments in material prices to be taken from ATC operating budget if required (up to the limit of the Clerk's delegated level). To be ratified by Full Council given the value.**

30 **Current Projects**

The following updates were received:

- 30.1 CCTV Public Gardens** Following the installation of the upgraded CCTV package last year, the project came in £5,696 under budget and in discussion with the contractor we determined to review after the first year to see if any further improvements were required. As a result, and in discussion with the local Police, it is recommended to Council that the current contract is extended to permit the installation of a further camera system in the Public Gardens to cover the area near the Bowls Club, which is currently not in range and also in the Town Centre to cover Turk Street. Costs are, £4,200 for the Public Gardens and £950 for Turk Street plus £520 to cover electrical works in both locations (the detailed quotation including images is included in Members bundles)

On the proposal of Councillor Suzie Burns, seconded by Councillor Lewis Jones it was

RESOLVED TO

Approve the purchase of additional cameras at a cost of £5,670 to be taken from monies accrued from the CCTV project last year

- 30.2 Replacement Fencing at Barley Fields.** The knee rail installed around the car park at Barley Fields has been damaged a number of times and has now collapsed in numerous areas. Initial consultation with the residents association indicated that a like for like replacement is preferred. Officers therefore wish to proceed with securing a contractor to undertake this work, requesting delegated authority to obtain quotations in accordance with ATC procurement rules / Financial regulations, so long as the price does not exceed the committee limit. Funds to come from the Barley Fields allocated reserve.

On the proposal of Councillor Graham Hill, seconded by Councillor Sharon Cullen it was

RESOLVED TO

Approve the purchase of additional knee rails for the car park perimeter of Barley Fields from the allocated reserve, delegating to officers to appoint a contractor following a procurement process in accordance with Financial Regulations and the Committee's spending limit

31 Friends of the River Wey: Report and Meeting Minutes

A report was tabled for the committee from the most recent meeting of the group which was presented by Charles Kaye, the Chair of the Friends Group.

In respect of the tree works to be undertaken (for which a planning application was submitted and permission granted by the Tree Officer at East Hampshire District Council), this work will be carried out by the contractor approved by Full Council at the April Meeting and is scheduled for October this year. A public engagement session will be advertised and held on site in September hosted by the Council's Rangers for any interested members of the public to discuss the works being carried out.

Charles advised that the Brewery Heritage Trail is currently in the planning stage and they are looking at various funding options which can be applied for. There will be more detail in the coming weeks.

Charles also noted that discussions with South East Water over potential future use of their meadow alongside the River Wey as part of the Wey Walk was still being progressed, albeit slowly and it was still on the "radar for both himself and the Town Clerk.

Charles further advises that following Surrey Wildlife "Dipping Squad" undertaking sample testing at the Lenten Street bridge, significant improvements have been identified.

The Chair thanks Charles for his attendance and advised that for future meetings, his report would be the first item on the Agenda after the formal items.

NOTED

The meeting closed at 8.25 p.m.