

**ALTON TOWN COUNCIL
OPEN SPACES COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 25th JULY 2018
AT JUBILEE SKATE PARK AT 4.00pm & KING'S POND AT 5pm**

Present: **Councillor Graham Hill** - **Chairman**
 Councillor Sharon Cullen
 Councillor Pam Jones
 Councillor Bisi Kennard

In attendance: **Mrs Leah Coney** - **Town Clerk**

 4 members of the public (at Jubilee Fields)
 4 members of the public (at King's Pond)

67 **Chairman's announcements**

The Chairman made the following standard announcements:

68 **Apologies**

Apologies were received from Councillors James Voller & Derek Gardner.

69 **Declarations of interest**

The Chairman reminded members of their obligation to disclose any pecuniary interest in items on the agenda. None were declared.

70 **To consider any requests for Dispensation to allow councillors with pecuniary interests to speak and vote**

No requests were tabled.

71 **Questions and representations from Members of the Public**

There were no specific questions raised as the public were invited to fully participate in the two subsequent agenda items.

72 **Jubilee Skate Park**

Councillors discussed with skate park users the merits and issues around the current skatepark. The primary concerns were around the issue of having metal surfacing which caused glare on occasion and at this time of year was very hot to skate on (or fall on!) It was felt that concrete was a better surface and whilst it takes longer to bed in as it can be quite shiny to start with in the longer term it presents less issues for skaters and riders and less maintenance challenges. There was discussion over utilising the slope of the bank better and installing sleepers to be used for seating.

Additionally, when the equipment was first installed many years ago, it was considered quite challenging whereas today it is not and therefore is not necessarily fit for purpose. It was pointed out that the skatepark at Anstey was designed for younger more inexperienced users and that the one at Jubilee should offer more difficulty and if the facilities were improved, it

would lend itself to having regular events and become more of a hub like the parks at Farnham and Bordon. One resident said that she felt it could have a wider appeal for the town and bring in footfall; at the moment she takes her son to the skate park in Bordon and goes to do her shopping in town before picking him up again.

It was suggested that councillors might like to look at the skatepark in Winchester and “Sol Jole” in Reading as well as Farnham and Reading to see some good examples of successful parks.

Users also pointed out that there are some issue with the skatepark at Anstey Park as some of the concrete needs remedial work where some cracks have appeared in the surfacing

Those attending the meeting said they would be happy to assist in inputting to a task and finish working group to progress this.

Councillors then discussed how to proceed. It was suggested that a task and finish working group be created from interested parties to consider design and layout, invite suppliers to quote and then through a public consultation chose the preferred design to submit to open spaces at the next meeting. Developers’ contributions and CIL monies were identified as being available for this project but potential contractors would also be asked to look at funding options.

On the proposal of Councillor Jones seconded by Councillor Hill it was

RESOLVED to

Approve in principle to progress the replacement of the skatepark at Jubilee and the improvement of the skatepark at Anstey Park in accordance with the timeline detailed above, using a task and finish working group to report back to Open Spaces at the next meeting.

73 Kings Pond Management Plan

The Town Clerk highlighted to Councillors a number of items on the colour coded maintenance programme for consideration during a walk of the site.

Residents strongly complained at the installation of the safety rail at the first feeding station, stating it was out of keeping and wrecked the view over the water. The Town Clerk explained that it was installed over the winder as a safety measure due to the erosion of the tarmac at the water’s edge to ensure people did not get too close. It was felt that wooden railings would be a false economy as they would rot out easily. It was pointed out that people can get to the water’s edge at a number of other locations without rails; the Clerk noted that as this one is tarmacked dedicated feeding station and on a slope, the Council is effectively inviting the public to use this area for feeding the birds so it should be safe.

Members asked the Clerk to look at adding a 90degree return rail at the end of the fence to stop people going around the barrier to access the water whether it could be painted to help tone down the visual impact. In addition and in accordance with the management plan, to infill the eroded area with chalk and woodchip to make good as well as undertaking a repair to the tarmac on the main path where there was some minor erosion and look to see if an additional soakaway might be installed to stop further erosion of the tarmac path.

Members suggested that the signage advising people in respect of feeding the ducks have white infill painting on the lettering to make the advice stand out better. They also wished to install two cycle “hoops” by the main car park.

The committee then moved around the pond to the far “car park” by the bridge alongside the embankment. The management plan asked for consideration of what should be done with this area which has informally started to be used for parking. Members felt it was not suitable as a car park given the sight line issues on exiting back onto the road and directed the Clerk to close this area off with bollards, including one drop down bollard for access by the Grounds Staff. In addition they requested the removal of the bollard which had been hit by a vehicle and the clearance of the drain by the entrance signage. It was recommended that a bicycle “hoop” be placed in this location along with a new litter bin.

Moving along the path running beside the embankment Members agreed that this path should be the priority path for resurfacing up to and including the feeding station on this side. It was also noted that a small amount of additional infilling was required by the water’s edge at this feeding station.

Members then completed their site walk heading back around towards the main car park.

There being no other items raised, the meeting finished at 6.02 p.m.