

**MINUTES OF MEETING OF NORTH LODGE PARK COMMITTEE
HELD AT CROMER COMMUNITY CENTRE ON 21 JULY 2014 AT 7.30PM**

PRESENT

Chair Cllr. P. Harris, Vice Chair Cllr. J. Bond
Cllr. T. Adams, Cllr. J. Frosdick, Cllr. C. Plewman, Cllr. A. Yiasimi

Mrs. J. Chance (Town Clerk), Mrs. J. Warner (Deputy Town Clerk)
67 members of the public

Cllr. Harris welcomed everyone and outlined the purpose of the meeting.

1. **ELECTION OF COMMITTEE VICE CHAIR**

It was **AGREED** to elect Cllr. J. Bond as Vice Chair of the Committee.

2. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

There were none.

3. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST & REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATIONS**

There were none.

4. **PRESENTATION**

Cllr. Harris made a presentation (refer attached).

5. **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

It was **AGREED** to suspend the meeting to allow members of the public to address the committee.

Questions/comments were made as follows:

5.1 Query re why full voting rights except for financial reasons?

5.2 What use is hindsight if you don't want to hear about the past and look back to when the park was profitable?

5.3 Putting used to be open for far longer hours and has not been run properly for years.

5.4 If run as a trust then there is a dispensation re the rates. If the commercial aspect is removed does the rates problem disappear?
It is financially not viable to run the park as a trust.

5.5 If putting is retained and maintained, other areas could be less manicured.

5.6 How will the Town Council advertise committee membership?
See agenda item 8.2

- 5.7 NNDC got North Lodge and North Lodge Park for nothing. CTC bought back the Lodge. For NNDC to claim overage is a disgrace.
- 5.8 Health and safety needs to be carefully looked at. Kier are damaging the kerbs and grass.
- 5.9 What role will co-opted members have if they cannot vote on financial decisions?
- 5.10 Suggest an advisory group is set up from which representatives are selected to be co-opted onto the committee.
- 5.11 If CTC take on the park can grants and donations be secured?
Yes, can use funds for match funding purposes.
- 5.12 Although new to Cromer, have no objections to local businesses having adverts in the park if it helps funding.
- 5.13 How was the decision made to not set up a trust?
NNDC & CTC spent 18 months during which time an independent professional was employed and he advised that it was not viable to set up a trust. At the end of the 18 months CTC agreed to take on the park.
- 5.14 Precept increased this year. Expenses being shifted from NNDC to CTC but compared to NNDC resources are limited. Can CTC cope with running the park and will it cost more?
Council tax is being held down and it is expected that parks etc. will be run by others.
- 5.15 Suggest music events in the park to raise money.
There are no plans for the park at present. The committee will progress this.
- 5.16 What is the link with the crematorium?
The only link is that the crematorium would generate income for CTC. The Cemetery Lodge is on the market too. The CTC budget sets where income is spent.
Not all Town councillors are happy to take on the park but the Town Council want to take it on for the people of Cromer.
- 5.17 CTC cannot get the same contractor economies of scale. NNDC has the responsibility of tourism.
NNDC do not have a statutory duty re tourism.
- 5.18 Does CTC have the clout and expertise to run a park?
Cromer is the only Town Council which does not run a park.
- 5.19 Discomfort that the help of volunteers is being discounted. Felbrigg has a head gardener supported by a team of volunteers.

The meeting reconvened.

6. **TRANSFER OF THE PARK**

6.1 Negotiations with NNDC

The Clerk advised that the Heads of Terms are still being negotiated.

6.2 Health & Safety Audit

The Health and Safety report is awaited.

7. **BUSINESS PLAN**

Cllr. Harris advised that a draft business plan had been put together but more detailed work is still required. A transfer date of September / October is likely. The budget needs to be considered.

8. **NORTH LODGE PARK COMMITTEE**

8.1 Committee Terms of Reference

These will be drafted for consideration at the next meeting.

8.2 Appointment of committee members

It was suggested to advertise in the press and proceed as per casual vacancies and if funds permit, a leaflet drop to be made to all households. It was further suggested to set up a Friends of North Lodge Park group from which representatives to the committee would be appointed.

It was noted that young people and their parents need to be represented as they are the biggest users of the park. Representatives from Seaview Playgroup, Cromer in Bloom and other groups will be invited to serve on the committee.

It was **AGREED** that a Friends of North Lodge Park group be formed. CTC will facilitate the first meeting of the group. The group will be advised of the number of representatives required to serve on the committee and will appoint their representatives.

8.3 Frequency and dates of meetings

It was **AGREED** that the committee will meet on a six-weekly basis.

There being no further business, the Chair closed the meeting at 8.55pm

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Signed

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Dated