

**UNADOPTED
POLEGATE TOWN COUNCIL**



BUILDINGS & LAND COMMITTEE

Minutes of the Buildings & Land Committee meeting held on Friday 14th July 2023 in the council chambers 49 High Street, Polegate East Sussex BN26 6AL at 10:30am

Present: Cllrs D Murray, D Dunbar, M Piper, A Wood, N Dunbar, J Keen, J Heward **(7)**

Not Present:, Cllr D Watts **(1)**

1 member of the public present

The chairperson of the friends of Jubilee nature reserve came to speak to the committee prior to the commencement of the meeting.

Cllr M Cunningham was present but not voting.

Minute Number	Resolution
13342	<i>Cllr J Keen arrived at 10:39am</i> <i>The meeting commenced at 10:42am</i> Opportunity for Public None
13343	Apologies for absence Cllr D Watts
13344	Declarations of interest in any items on the agenda All Cllrs declared an interest non prejudicial
13345	Jubilee Nature Reserve (JNR) a. Strategy for the JNR (in line with the Friends of Group) Following the chairperson of the Friends of group answering questions before the meeting commenced the committee discussed the strategy and way forward. All agreed that the friends of group had worked hard but it was difficult to maintain with few volunteers. It was agreed that once budgets had been set a volunteer would need a risk assessment and a rotovator could be hired once clearance had been carried out. A councillor mentioned grant funding of large sums that might be obtained in the future to help with this and make it more attractive for volunteers to come along and help. The committee discussed the possibility of having hedgerows and small trees and bushes to use these as fencing to separate areas a little. They discussed the wetter areas and how seed grass might be sown. Raised beds were discussed. It was agreed that two councillors would volunteers to map some of the plants out. The committee discussed concerns over leaving the site open and vandalism and what kind of times it would be open to prevent this from happening. It was agreed that a balance of having it open but protecting it should be a consideration. It was agreed that some other areas such as the Sacred Earth site should be contacted to see how they manage the balance between having areas open and protecting the land from vandalism and misuse. It was agreed that the right side should be left more for wildlife and possibly future rehousing of local wildlife. A post and rail system of fencing internally was discussed. Some of the committee felt that anyone could just climb over that.

	b. Budget plans for 2024/25 budget Deferred c. Maintenance plans and budget required 2023/24 (for finance approval from general reserves) Deferred - Estimates for maintenance will be obtained based on : Clearance, advice, rotovator hire, fencing, survey and mapping, CIL £5-10,000 request to use for capital items and delegated the spend to the committee. d. Tree audit (cost from general reserves) estimated £1000 <u>It was resolved to go ahead with the tree audit and to request circa £1000 from general reserves. VOTE All in favour</u> e. Other matters affecting the land for discussion <i>Standing orders were suspended</i> <i>The chairperson of the Friends of group commented on the suggested plans</i> <i>Standing orders reinstated</i> Ideas for the future included: wildlife monitoring, grid reference mapping, benches but no picnic benches. It was agreed that the main strategy of the friends of group was good, but any public money spent must be justified by making it partly accessible to the public and open the space up a bit. <u>It was resolved that benches could be installed but not picnic benches. It was resolved to adopt the friends of strategy as a main way forward for the land. VOTE All in favour.</u>
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The meeting closed at 11:00 am

Signed by _____ Chair of Finance & Policy _____ Dated _____