

LEICESTER FOREST EAST PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parks, Hall, Events and LiFE Magazine Committee Meeting on Tuesday 5th September 2023, held in the Parish Hall, Kings Drive, Leicester Forest East commencing at 7.33pm.

Present: D. Di Palma (Chair) D. Dawes (Vice-Chair) P. Kitchen C. Wells
M. Bozzoni

Two members of the public
Mrs H. E. Mann – Clerk to the Council

PH&E 23.57 To receive apologies for absence

Resolution: The Committee resolved to accept apologies for absence from Councillor Darlison.

PH&E 23.58 To receive disclosures of interest in accordance with the code of conduct

None.

PH&E 23.59 To adjourn the meeting to receive questions from members of the public

Two members of the public attended the meeting in person, on behalf of a football team, to discuss possible hire of a football pitch. Therefore, the Committee resolved to discuss agenda item PH&E 23.62 (c) at this point of the meeting.

The football team wished to hire a football pitch for the 2023-2024 season. An overview was given of the work the football team, and associated sports company, carries out in the community. The members of the public were keen to emphasise that they wish to share a pitch with the existing football club and not to take a pitch away from them. Matches will be on a Sunday at 2pm (11-a-side ladies team). The pitch would then be used for the women's team to practice on Tuesday and Friday nights from 6pm-7.30pm in the summer months. The FA will be notified by them to ensure there is no conflict of matches between either football club for that pitch. The Committee stressed that it would be for the new football club to liaise with the existing football club to arrange storage for goal posts and ensure the two clubs work collaboratively in future. Additionally, car parking needs to be considered to ensure that, on match days, there is still sufficient parking for hall hirers. The Committee stated that the new club could use whichever pitch they want but they must liaise with the existing football club on this.

Resolution: The Committee resolved that a charge of £150 for the 2023/2024 season would be applied should the new club decide to hire a pitch.

The new football club will let the Clerk know if they wish to go ahead with the hire of a pitch and the Clerk will send a courtesy email to the existing club and invoice the new club.

PH&E 23.60 To confirm the minutes of the Parks, Hall, Events and LiFE Magazine Committee Meeting held on Tuesday 4th July 2023 as a true and accurate record

Resolution: The Committee resolved to accept the 4th July 2023 Parks, Hall and Events Committee minutes as a true and accurate record.

Clerk to remove the word draft from the July 4th 2023 Parks, Hall and Events Committee minutes.

PH&E 23.61 To discuss matters arising from those minutes:

(a) To discuss alterations to the Parish Office

The Committee asked for the following to be added to the design for the new Parish Office: wheelchair ramp to the new door, any necessary alterations to the path to allow for the wheelchair ramp, ensure there will be shutters to cover the new window and new door, a canopy at the new entrance to match in LFE green, electric heating instead of gas radiators and to ask the architects to liaise with the alarm company to see how the alarm could be disabled from the new entrance to allow staff to access the building that way.

(b) To discuss Possible new audio-visual equipment for Film Evening

Resolution: The Parks Committee resolved to recommend to Council to accept the quote from Nosie Boys for new AV equipment for the Film Evening.

Clerk to:

- Add 'To discuss Possible new audio-visual equipment for Film Evening' to Council agenda as it will need to be paid from general reserves as there is no budget for it.
- Check with Nosie Boys that the quote for new AV equipment is still valid.

(c) To discuss issue with edging of surfacing, large activity centre on Boyers Park & related quote
Still nothing has been heard from NoMow.

(d) To consider requests from three residents to have trees/bushes cut back on one park

Clerk to go round and show Arboreco the three issues with overgrown vegetation/trees etc and ask for quotes for all three jobs.

(e) To consider residents responses from life magazine asking if a remembrance garden is desired

Clerk to take off Remembrance Garden off the agenda.

(f) To consider whether to apply for a Community Grant from Blaby District Council

Clerk to investigate costs and feasibility of changing from gas to electric heating in the Parish Hall.

(g) To consider adding wavy path through wildflower garden

Resolution: The Committee resolved to install a wavy path on both sides of the Wildflower Garden.

This path will need to be 6 feet wide to allow the grounds maintenance company to mow it. Wildflower seeds will be planted both sides of the path.

PH&E 23.62

To discuss Forest East Park, Kings Walk Park and Spinney matters:

(a) To consider quotes for tree surveys

Awaiting the third quote.

(b) To consider adding a sign to the teen shelter to say 'Do Not Climb'

Resolution: The Committee resolved to add a 'Do Not Climb' sign onto the teen shelter.

Clerk to order 'Do Not Climb' sign for teen shelter and ask handyman to fit it. Will need to ensure sign company get a photo of the teen shelter so they can ensure suitable fixings are sent with it which cannot cause injury but which will adhere to the shelter.

(c) To consider allowing another football club to hire pitches

The Committee resolved to deal with this agenda item at PH&E 23.59 above.

(d) To consider a resident's complaint of overhanging trees from Kings Walk Park onto the footpath

Clerk to ask Arboreco for their professional opinion on the branches and, if necessary, to quote for the works to be completed.

(e) To consider if there are sufficient bins on Kings Walk Park

Resolution: The Committee resolved to recommend to Council to remove all three bins on Kings Walk Park, purchase three new round (lid over bottom-type) dual-waste bins. Inform BDC of these changes. Ensure all three bins are within 10 metres of road to keep emptying costs low. Have all three bins installed by handyman.

PH&E 23.63

To discuss other Parks and Hall Matters

(a) To consider reasons why a battery was not fitted alongside the solar panels on the Parish Hall

At the July Parks Committee meeting the Clerk was asked to find out why a battery was not fitted alongside the solar panels on the Parish Hall.

Fitting a battery would not have been cost effective because:

1. based on the figures provided, the solar panels would provide 88% of the Parish Hall's electricity needs so there would not be a huge excess to store in a battery.

2. Batteries would not store all excess energy produced as they have a maximum capacity.
3. For example, a £10,000 battery would need to save the Parish Council £1,000 a year to ensure it had paid for itself within its 10-year life span (batteries last 10 years), this would not have been the case at the Parish Hall.

(b) To consider if the Parish Hall could be switched from gas to electric heating

Clerk to investigate switching from gas to electric heating in the Parish Hall.

(c) To consider whether to get quotes to clear out grate/drain in middle of Parish Hall car park as regularly floods

Clerk to obtain quotes to clear the grate/drain in middle of Parish Hall car park as it regularly floods.

(d) To consider adding free (from LCC) fruit trees to section of grass on Parish Hall car park

Clerk to attempt to obtain 10 fruit trees, free of charge, from LCC when they hand them out (first come first served) during national tree week in November. If obtained, five will be planted on one side of the wildflower grade and five the other. Also, contact the forestry team to notify them of the PC's interest. Additionally, inform the grounds maintenance contractor of the upcoming works to the Wildflower Garden.

(e) To consider whether to invite quotes to revarnish the Parish Hall floor or whether to wait until alterations to the office have been completed

Resolution: The Committee resolved to wait until the Parish Office alterations have been completed before having the Parish Hall floor restored.

(f) To consider whether to add a bench(es) to Kings Walk Park

Resolution: The Committee resolved to move the plain black bench from the wildflower garden area to the far corner of Kings Walk Park.

(g) To consider the Coronation Living Heritage Fund for micro woods or community orchard

Clerk to register LFEP's interest in the Coronation Living Heritage Fund with LCC and BDC to obtain funding for a micro wood or community orchard.

(h) To consider removing the red and yellow roundabout from Kings Walk Park

Resolution: The Committee resolved that the red and yellow roundabout on Kings Walk Park is beyond economical repair and should, therefore, be removed by the handyman.

(i) To consider the grounds maintenance contractors broken mower from possible football goal pins

The football club have, since the agenda was prepared, paid this invoice and initiated a system whereby goal pins are counted out and back to ensure this does not happen again.

PH&E 23.64

Events

(a) Quiz Night – October 2023

Councillors took posters to put up on lamp posts to promote the quiz night.

(b) Picnic in the Park 2023 review

Various suggestions were made to improve next year's event.

PH&E 23.65

To consider when to print the next edition of LiFE magazine

The next edition of LiFE magazine will go out w/c 13.11.2023.

Clerk to check with Norwood Press when they need the articles to distribute the LiFE magazine w/c 13.11.2023 and then contact Cllrs, MP, District Cllrs, County Cllrs and advertisers etc to give them a deadline for articles.

Resolution: The Committee resolved to keep adverts in the magazine free apart from full page adverts.

PH&E 23.66

To consider budget items for 2023/2024 budget

Clerk to leave 'To consider budget items for 2023/2024 budget' on the agenda.

PH&E 23.67

Date of next Meeting

Tuesday 3rd October 2023 at 7.30pm.

Meeting closed at 9.22pm.