

Agenda Item 10

Notes on Meeting Held at Holmefield House on 30th June 2017

Present Cllr. Tony Greaves
Mr Philip Mousdale
Cllr Robert Oliver
Cllr Royce Windley
Mr Iain Lord

Purpose of Meeting

To discuss matters arising from the proposed transfer of Barrowford Memorial Park.

Discussion

1. Transfer Date

Cllr. Oliver pointed out that although 1st April 2018 was an initial target it is not possible to commit to a precise date at this time pending resolution of the Park Hill lease and the provision of a draft transfer document. The aim of PBC is to make the Park and Lease transfer coincident.

2. Grounds Maintenance

The expectation of PBC is that they will retain the bulk of the work in the first two years with the cost negotiated annually with a six month notice of termination by either party and would like to tender for future work if BPC decide to go down the tender route. BPC confirmed that where appropriate and cost effective work will continue to be placed with PBC maintenance staff and paid accordingly.

3. Future Budget Reductions

PBC have reduced the £270,000 budget for 2017/18 by £90,000 with the intention to reduce it by a similar amount for 2018/19 before completely removing the budget completely for 2019/20. PBC aim to approve the reduction for 2018/19 before the year end, if possible in October, giving Parish & Town Councils certainty on their budget requirement for 2018/19 and allowing any necessary increases accordingly.

As the Parish & Town Council have to submit their precept requirements for 2018/19 prior to PBC setting its budget, the matter of PBC not changing its budget reduction at this point was raised, as this could lead to a potential shortfall. Cllr Greaves stated that although that was possible the likelihood was slim.

4. Further information required by BPC

PBC agreed to provide a list of specialist services that would be the responsibility of BPC as new owner (Play Area, tree maintenance, waste and litter collection, Public Space Protection Orders, etc). If BPC were to employ a park keeper that person could be designated the responsible person for the PSPO by PBC. PBC would also provide the current risk assessments.

5. Transfer Details

PBC agreed to provide a listing of all buildings, land etc. that they envisage to be included in the transfer of ownership. It was agreed that the Cemetery and adjoining

Agenda Item 10

fields (currently leased out) would not be included. BPC requested that work required to reinforce banking, previously identified, should be carried out before transfer and PBC agreed to look into this.

The responsibility for the bridge linking the park to Gisburn Road was currently unclear; PBC would also look into this.

6. Legal Arrangements

PBC aim to provide a draft formal transfer agreement to BPC for discussion/agreement. At this stage BPC would engage legal advice if found necessary.

7. Heritage Centre Lease

A revised Lease including currently unspecified changes requested by Mr John Miller is to be provided to BPC shortly for approval or amendment.

8. Friends Groups

BPC undertook to meet with the Friends of the Park and the Bowling Club to explain the changes involved. PBC would provide the letter of agreement it had with the Bowling Club.

Victoria Park

Cllr Oliver expressed his serious concern that a report had gone to the PBC Executive which had not made BPC's position on Victoria Park clear. Historically the park was created and maintained by the Borough of Nelson and as such was their park and their responsibility. It was unsatisfactory that differential maintenance of the two parts of the park had already started, without discussions with BPC. BPC was not wholly adverse to contributing to the maintenance cost in future.

It became clear that, on the Nelson side of the river, Nelson Cricket Club, Nelson Football Club and the Café were covered by a self-maintaining long term lease on a peppercorn rent. This greatly reduces the maintenance implications for the Nelson side of the river.

PBC is meeting with Nelson Town Council in mid-July and Mr Mousdale undertook to make BPC's position clear to them.

It was agreed a further meeting on this issue would be required.