



MINUTES OF THE LEISURE AND AMENITIES COMMITTEE MEETING held in the St Piran's Room, the Penlee Centre, Penlee Park, Penzance on Monday 12 June 2023 at 7:00pm.

PRESENT

Councillors NC Broadhurst (Chair)

DJ Axford
MJ Beveridge
RW Crago
JM How

B Jackson
TS Marrington
J Power
SJ Reynolds

Also present: James Hardy (Town Clerk), Ben Brosgall (Leisure & Amenities Manager) and Elliot Ridington (Democratic Services Officer).

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Durrant, W Elliott, Lawlor, Sorrell, and Young.

2. ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIR

It was proposed that Councillor Power be appointed as Vice-Chair of the Leisure and Amenities Committee.

In the absence of any other nominations, it was unanimously

RESOLVED that Councillor Power be appointed as Vice-Chair of the Leisure and Amenities Committee.

(Proposed: Councillor Reynolds; seconded: Councillor Axford)

3. TO RECEIVE DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

4. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Mr Brian Venn was in attendance and spoke regarding Agenda Item 7(e) – 'Battery Rocks War Memorial'.

5. TO RESOLVE TO EXCLUDE MEMBERS OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

There were no confidential items for consideration.

6. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 27 MARCH 2023

The Minutes having previously been circulated, it was



RESOLVED that the Minutes of the meeting held on 27 March 2023 be approved as a true and correct record and signed by the Chair.

(Proposed: Councillor How; seconded: Councillor Axford)

Vote; Six in favour. Three abstentions.

7. REPORTS FOR DECISION

(a) Tree Surveys 2023

Penzance Council's insurers required that it undertook regular surveys of its tree stock across the sites it owned and managed and it was also necessary to carry out recommended works to ensure that appropriate steps were taken to manage tree safety.

In line with the surveys appended to the report, it was therefore recommended that quotations be sought for the highest risk items and that the corresponding work be undertaken where budgets allowed.

Should the approved budget have been insufficient, officers would prioritise sites based on risk and footfall and bring a further report to a future meeting of this Committee to identify any outstanding work. It was also prudent to consider some of the lower risk work identified in the report which often fell into the category of "good tree management" to prolong the health and life of the existing tree stock.

Following consideration, it was unanimously

RESOLVED that

1. The Tree Survey reports, as set out in the Appendices 1 – 15 of the report, be noted.
2. Quotes for the works be sought and, subject to funds being available within approved budgets, all high priority safety work and recommended tree felling, in addition to any identified items which fall into the statutory nuisance category, be carried out in line with the overall works recommended within Appendices 1 – 15 of the report.
3. Should funds be available within existing budgets, the lower risk works set out in Appendices 1 – 15 of this report be carried out in order of highest to lowest priority.
4. Authority be delegated to the Town Clerk, on behalf of Penzance Council, to apply for any planning permission(s) which may be required to progress the works referred to in (2.) and (3.) above.

(Proposed: Councillor Axford; seconded: Councillor Marrington)

(b) Wellfields Car Park – EV Charging Points



Penzance Council previously resolved to progress the installation of two EV charging stations within Wellfields Car Park. However, its previous resolutions were linked to the involvement of Co Cars and it now appeared unlikely that Co Cars would be continuing with the project. As such, it was recommended that the market was approached to find a number of different providers and to select a supplier to install the charging point element of the project alone.

The supplier who was previously involved would be invited to submit a formal proposal, but this would need to be assessed alongside competitors now that the project was no longer linked to a joint EV Charging Point / Co Cars proposal.

Following consideration, it was unanimously

RESOLVED that

1. Expressions of interest, and associated proposals, be sought for the installation of EV Charging points in Wellfield's Car Park.
2. Said proposals be presented to a future meeting of this Committee to allow for the consideration of the potential appointment of a provider.

(Proposed: Councillor Beveridge; seconded: Councillor Power)

(c) Wellfields Car Park – Payment Option

Options were being explored for the phased replacement of the ticket machines in Wellfields Car Park. However, the expected cost of replacing both machines would exceed the figure currently available within the approved reserve.

To provide some additional coverage in the event of machine breakdowns and add some additional accessibility, providers of electronic payment options had been engaged. While it had proven difficult to gain any significant traction with some of the larger providers, which required users to download a specific application to use the payment option, one provider had engaged well during early discussions with officers.

The option from this specific provider did not require users to download a specific application, but instead only required users to scan a QR code on their mobile devices which would then direct them to a webpage where they would be able to purchase a ticket. The system was already in place in a number of car parks in the Cornwall, including one run by a Town Council.

Following consideration, it was unanimously

RESOLVED that

1. A trial of an electronic payment option for Wellfield's Car Park be undertaken for a minimum period of six months and until such time that this Committee meets following this period.



2. With reference to (1.) above, it be noted that the charge per transaction will negatively impact the budgeted income figure, up to a maximum of 15% per transaction, for Wellfield's Car Park for the current financial year.
3. The results of the trial referenced in (1.) above be presented to a future meeting of this Committee to allow consideration of the continuation of this option on a permanent basis.

(Proposed: Councillor Reynolds; seconded Councillor Marrington)

(d) Weed Treatment Trial

Penzance Council's weed management was kept under constant review and the recent season had seen good growth conditions for weeds, resulting in a large number of visible weeds across the parish.

The current method of management was to cut the weeds as close as possible utilising commercial battery powered equipment, although this method required the weeds to be visible before they could be cut and also did not kill the weed, which led to quick regrowth.

A small amount of negative feedback had been received about certain areas of the delivery which specifically related to the roadside kerb edges, typically close to parked vehicles, where mechanical means were not viable.

Weed treatment methods continued to be developed, aiming to achieve effectiveness of previous chemical spray methods, and one of these treatments utilised acetic acid. Acetic acid in lower concentrations was often used in more eco-conscious household cleaning applications but had been trialled in some areas as a form of weed management.

It was recommended that an initial trial be undertaken in Wellfields Car Park, the perimeter of the Penzance Council Office and Penlee House to assess the effectiveness and possible drawbacks of adopting this method into a wider delivery programme.

Following consideration, it was

RESOLVED that

1. A trial be undertaken to assess the use of acetic acid for weed management for possible inclusion in the current weed management programme.
2. The use of up to £2,500 from the Machinery Replacement Reserve (currently standing at £27,845) for the purchase of application and protective equipment be approved.
3. The results of said trial be reported to a future meeting of this Committee to allow consideration of the future use of acetic acid on a permanent basis.

(Proposed: Councillor Axford; seconded Councillor Jackson)

Vote; Seven in favour. One against. One abstention.



(e) Battery Rocks War Memorial

During 2022 a condition survey was undertaken on the Battery Rocks War Memorial. Three elements in particular prompted the survey, namely, the missing piece of railing, failing pointing to the base of the memorial and excessive weathering to the seaward side of the memorial. Indicative costs were received of work which could be undertaken to help prevent further deterioration or of more permanent restoration work.

The total amount available in the earmarked reserve would not cover the entirety of the recommended repairs and so it was recommended that as many of these as possible were undertaken. Despite several attempts at engaging with different contractors regarding the work, little progress has been made other than with the contractor which had carried out the initial survey. As such, it was recommended that any possible repairs were progressed with this contractor.

Following consideration, it was unanimously

RESOLVED that the total amount remaining in the Memorial earmarked reserve be utilised to carry out as many repairs as possible to the Battery Rocks War Memorial.

(Proposed: Councillor Axford; seconded: Councillor Reynolds)

(f) Penzance Football Club – Additional User Toilet Block

Penzance Football Club had sought permission from Penzance Council for the installation of an additional toilet block to be situated separately from the clubhouse and adjacent to the Football Pitch.

Were support in principle provided, this would mean that Penzance Council did not object to the Football Club developing a full proposal, but that permission to proceed with any work would be subject to the review of appropriate documentation at a future meeting of this Committee.

During the debate, a Member made reference to the lack of toilet facilities within Penlee Park on a Sunday when the Penlee House Gallery and Museum was closed and stated that this represented a problem for parents and children who used the play area. He therefore suggested that any additional toilet block be made accessible to members of the public on a Sunday and become part of the community toilet scheme, with this proposal being widely supported by the Members of the Committee.

Following consideration, it was unanimously

RESOLVED that

1. The addition of a toilet block adjacent to the football pitch at Penzance Football Club be supported in principle.
2. The full and complete plan for said toilet block be presented to a future meeting of this Committee for further consideration prior to any planning permissions being sought or works undertaken.



(Proposed: Councillor Power; seconded: Councillor Crago)

8. REPORTS FOR INFORMATION

The Committee received the following reports for information:-

- (a) Project Update
- (b) Princess May Recreation Ground – Devolution Update
- (c) Operational Performance Report
- (d) Budget Comparison Report

9. MATTERS ARISING FOR REPORT AT THE NEXT MEETING

There were no matters arising for report at the next meeting.

The meeting closed at 8:06 pm

Chair
7 August 2023