

Minutes of the meeting of the Great Notley Country Park Joint Venture Partnership Board held at the Discovery Centre, on Monday 15 July 2019 at 14:00.

Present:

Councillors:

S Walsh	(Chairman)	Essex County Council
M Platt		Essex County Council
G Butland		Braintree District Council
W Schmitt		Braintree District Council

The following officers and advisors were also present in support:

Samir Pandya	Strategy & Policy Manager, Braintree District Council
Paul Partridge	Head of Operations, Braintree District Council
Andrew Seaman	Democratic Services Officer, Essex County Council
Harrison Ewan	Park Manager, Great Notley Country Park
Steffanie Robertson	Interim Park Manager, Great Notley Country Park
Laura Boreham	Business Development Lead, Culture and Green Spaces

1. Membership, Apologies, Substitutions and Declarations of Interest.

The Board received the report on Membership, Apologies and Declarations and it was noted that:

- The membership of the board was shown as shown in the report.
- Apologies had been received from Dee O'Rourke, Head of Culture & Green Spaces.
- There were no declarations of interest.

2. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of the Great Notley Country Park Joint Venture Partnership Board held on 4 December 2018 were approved as correct record and signed by the Chairman.

It was agreed that:

- land registry needs to be confirmed – Laura Boreham to action
- Flooding was resolved.

3. Site Report

The Board received report (GTP/01/19) from Steffanie Robertson and Harrison Ewan, Park Managers. The following points were highlighted from the report:

- Current manager, Claire Bunn has gone on maternity leave and Steffanie Robertson is the interim Park Manager.
- A new part-time Ranger Frank has started and is doing a good job.
- Some play equipment was awaiting parts from contractors, would be open in time for the summer season.
- The water play area does not look to be open this summer due to high maintenance costs.
- Update on the muddy entrance, will be maintained after the summer season.

During consideration of the report the following points were made:

- Last inspection was in May.
- A different solution was trialled as an alternative to glyphosate to kill the weeds.
- To increase visitor numbers, they have drafted some small events such as night under stars, camp fire night, pond dipping.
- Friends of the Flitch Way are continuing to work with them once a week but will pause over summer.
- Estimated 23k visitors. Takings have gone up.

Summer holidays, when play equipment, climbing forest repairs are still ongoing, awaiting parts

It was agreed that:

- There should be a comparison of the budgets from previous years – Laura Boreham to action.
- Grass at entrance could be wild flower area instead of being mowed – Harrison Ewan to action.

4. AGP & MUGA

The Board received report (GTP/02/19) from Samir Pandya, Strategy & Policy Manager. The following points were highlighted from the report:

- An order has been placed to renew the pitch, ETC sports services, come in at about 70k total 82k with consultants.
- Aim to have a reopening event.
- Only 2.4% increase in prices.
- Anti-climb paint made a big improvement to security, needs renewing.

5. Allotments

The Board received report (GTP/03/19) from Paul Partridge, Head of Operations. The following points were highlighted from the report:

- Discussion was that a part of the country parks could be used as allotments to replace the current allotment plot. There would be a survey of the park to see what areas could be turned into allotments.
- As an educational perspective, it would be beneficial for the allotments to be at the park.

It was agreed that:

- A survey of the park would take place, to assess any suitable areas where an allotment could be placed. – Paul Partridge to action.

6. Date of Next Meeting

The date of the next meeting would be agreed in due course.

There being no urgent business the meeting closed at 14:25.

Chairman