

Minutes of the meeting of Great Notley Country Park Joint Venture Partnership Board held at Great Notley Country Park, Braintree at 11.00am on Wednesday 5 February 2020.

Present:

Councillors:

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

The following officers were present in support:

Laura Boreham	Business Development Lead, Culture and Green Spaces
Samir Pandya	Strategy & Policy Manager, Braintree District Council
Paul Partridge	Head of Operations, Braintree District Council
Judith Dignum	Democratic Services Officer, Essex County Council

1. Membership, Apologies, Substitutions and Declarations of Interest

The Board received the report on Membership, Apologies and Declarations, noting that:

1. The membership of the Board was as shown in the report.
2. Apologies for absence had been received from Paul Stokes, Operations Manager and Dominic Collins, Director, Economic Growth and Localities, both Essex County Council
3. There were no declarations of interest.

2. Minutes: 15 July 2019

The minutes of the meeting of the Great Notley Country Park Joint Venture Partnership Board held on 15 July 2019 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

Arising from consideration of minute 2 (Minutes), the Democratic Services Officer undertook to arrange for the Board to receive an update on the current position regarding the reporting to the Land Registry of land encroachments associated with building development along the Flitch Way

3. Site Report (GTP/01/20)

The Board received a report by Steffanie Robertson (Interim Park Manager) and Harrison Ewen (Park Manager) which provided an update on current issues relating to Great Notley Country Park.

The following points were highlighted:

- Management responsibility for the café had been taken back in-house. The facility was currently being refurbished and was expected to reopen in time for the peak season - Laura Boreham undertook to update members on progress. Councillor Platt undertook to liaise with appropriate officers regarding the Board's request that, should completion of the project be delayed, mobile catering arrangements be provided as an interim measure.
- A number of staffing changes had occurred or were in progress arising from a restructure at Essex County Council:
 - Steve Bunn and Harrison Ewen had left the Council
 - Laura Boreham would be leaving at the end of February.
 - The main Essex County Council contacts for the Board from now on would be Paul Stokes and Steffanie Robertson (pending Claire Bunn's return from maternity leave in April).

Members wished Paul, Laura and their colleagues well for the future.

- Councillor Butland undertook to liaise with officers to determine the latest position on progress to resolve issues at the 'wet' end of the park, possibly delayed due to poor weather.
- The need for remedial works to various items of play equipment was acknowledged. The insurance claim relating to the equipment which had been burned was ongoing, with decisions to be taken on the nature of the replacement, ie like for like if still available or something different. Decisions were also in progress regarding a replacement for the water play area.
- Officers updated the Board on the latest position regarding the adjacent Horizon 120 Business and Innovation Park and the ongoing liaison between Braintree District and Essex County Councils. Members were advised that no S106 funding would be associated with the development as the land concerned was owned by Braintree District Council.
- With regard to the proposed provision of allotments within the country park, Paul Partridge advised that the group established to progress the issue was due to reconvene shortly for an inspection of potential sites.

The Board noted the report.

4. Artificial Grass Pitch (AGP) and Multi-Use Games Area (MUGA) (GTP/02/20)

The Board received a report by Samir Pandya, Strategy and Policy Manager, Braintree District Council which provided an update on usage and income

from the Artificial Grass Pitch (AGP) and Multi-use Games Area (MUGA) at Great Notley Country Park. The update related to the nine-month period from 1 April to 31 December 2019.

The following issues arose from the update:

- It was noted that, despite some financial loss associated with closure during renewal of the artificial grass pitch, income generated was broadly in line with expectations and similar to that for the previous year.
- A successful and well-received launch event for the refurbished pitch had taken place in September 2019.
- The next project was expected to commence in March and concerned refurbishment of the lighting, involving a switch to LED, for which planning permission was required. The lamps would be shielded to defend against light pollution.
- Noting the latest position with regard to the Football Development Plan, Members were encouraged to hear that the partnership with the Community Iron (CI, the Community Charity of Braintree Town FC) was progressing well and to learn of the work to encourage participation by under-represented groups, including girls and those with disabilities. The Chairman undertook to liaise with Councillor Ray Gooding, Essex County Council Cabinet Member for Education and Skills, regarding promotion to schools of the activities available, including a number of tournaments.

The report was noted.

5. Date of Next Meeting

Members noted that the date of the next meeting would be confirmed in due course.

There being no urgent business, the meeting closed at 11.30am.

Chairman