



Operations & Amenities Committee

Present: Cllrs Chapman (Deputy Chairperson), Collins, Hitchin

In attendance: Town Clerk, Operations Manager, Project Deliver Manager

Absent: Cllrs Bolanz, Cooper-Marsh, Dunford, Goodman, Johnson and Maslen

Minutes of the meeting of the **Operations & Amenities committee** held on **Tuesday 3rd December 2024** at **7.15pm** in the Eaton's Centre, The Maltings, St Neots, PE19 8ES.

Public Participation

There were no members of the public present.

ACTIONS

075 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were noted from Cllrs Bolanz, Cooper-Marsh, Dunford, Goodman and Johnson.

Admin

076 Declarations of Interest

There were none.

077 Minutes

RESOLVED to approve the minutes of the meeting of the Operations and Amenities Committee held on 12th November 2024 as a true and accurate record.

078 Action list

Members received and noted the committee action list.

079 Local Highways Improvement Bids (LHI)

- i) Members received and noted overview report of current Town Council Local Highways Improvement Bids. Members considered whether to recommend a reduction in the Highways Improvement revenue budget for the 2025-26 budget. Members felt that given the current costs of approximately £85,000 to ongoing LHI schemes, the increasing cost of schemes and potential requests for future works to support the implementation of the 20mph zones the Council should continue to build a reserve for Highways works. The committee did not propose any amendment to the current draft Highways Improvement budget for 2025-26.
- ii) Members received and noted an update from the Highways Project Officer on the Crosshall Road scheme.
- iii) Members received and considered recommendations on potential LHI bids for the 2025/26 application round.



RESOLVED that the Town Clerk submit a 2025 Local Highway Improvement bid for the East and Gransden Ward to address safety concerns at the junction of Cambridge Road, Stonehill and Fox Brook. Town Clerk

RESOLVED that the Town Clerk submit a 2025 Local Highway Improvement bid for Priory Park and Little Paxton Ward to address pedestrian safety concerns on Longsands Road and crossing a busy road in front of schools and a main through fare used by residents. Town Clerk

RESOLVED that the Town Clerk submit a 2025 Local Highway Improvement bid for Eynesbury Ward to address highway safety concerns on Barford Road by the Cambridgeshire Hunter, caused by a mix of parked vehicles, speeding, blind spots, and a dangerous crossing point. Town Clerk

RESOLVED that the Town Clerk submit a Local Highway Improvement bid for Eatons Ward to address speeding and safety concerns on St Neots Road, particularly in relation to double roundabouts at the junctions of River Road and Orchard Road. Town Clerk

RESOLVED that the Council submit a Privately funded Local Highway Improvement bid for advisory signage at Peppercorn Lane to address issues of HGVs incorrectly entering the road. Town Clerk

080 Museum Building Lighting

Members received and considered a report on internal lighting with the museum building owned by the Council and leased to St Neots Museum.

RESOLVED to RECOMMEND that the Council approve up to £3,000.00 (incl. contingency) in funding from the earmarked reserve for Community Buildings to complete the replacement internal lighting at St Neots Museum as follows; PDM

- 10no 4-foot fluorescent light fittings with LED strip lights
- 18no 600x600 recessed tile light fittings with LED panel lights (ceiling height is about 3m or more)
- 14no bulkhead light fittings with LED bulk heads
- 4no track lights with 6-foot LED strip lights (two in the area of ceilings well over 3m height)
- 3no 5-foot fluorescent light fittings with LED strip lights (one in the area of ceilings well over 3m height)

081 Natural England

RESOLVED to approve Natural England can undertake an ecosystem survey on Sidney Banks playing field at a point between April 2025 to March 2026 subject to advising the Town Clerk of the exact date/s prior to starting the survey. Admin



082 Additional Depot Space

Members received and considered a report on additional depot space and an option which has arisen for an additional unit for the operations team to operate from.

The Operations Manager explained how additional depot space would be useful to the team, particularly around storage of things currently stored outside, vehicles and allowing for the creation of a dry room in the current depot of Operations teams kit.

A Member queried need for additional space following the purchase of a new item of equipment which was reported to allow for better storage and organisation at the current depot. A Member commented that they were disinclined to support renting the additional depot without more detail justification and a supporting report.

RESOLVED to defer a decision on whether to rent additional depot space identified by the Operations Manager until a more detailed report and justification were brought forward for consideration.

Ops
Mngr

083 Jubilee Garden

Members considered a report with quotes or indicative costs for protective measures the committee wished to consider as part of preventing future damage to the Jubilee Mosaic. The quotes and costs received were for three specific steps, which combined sought to protect the mosaic from damage by water and loose stones;

- 1) Removing all loose stone and replacing with resin.
- 2) Removing fixed stones around the mosaic which trap water and replacing with resin.
- 3) Installing perimeter drainage around the mosaic.

Members debated the cost of the works, highlighting there would still be additional costs in repairing the mosaic itself which weren't currently known. A Member commented that the proposals would benefit the garden even if the mosaic was not repaired and would also stop any further new damage.

RESOLVED to RECOMMEND to the Finance and Governance Committee that the Council approve the expenditure of £9,571.00 from the General Reserve to install slot drainage in the area around the Jubilee Mosaic, to remove stones around the perimeter of the mosaic and areas of loose gravel in the garden and replace with resin.

084 Budget Setting 2025/26

Members received and considered the Operations and Amenities Committee budgets for the 2025-2026 financial year that had been previously recommended to the Finance and Governance Committee. Members noted that there have been no further amendments to the draft budget since the last meeting of the committee.



No further amendments to the draft Operations and Amenities 2025-26 budgets were proposed.

RESOLVED to RECOMMEND the draft 2025-26 Operations and Amenities budgets to the Finance and Governance committee for consideration as part of the overall 2025-26 Council budget.

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085 Streetlight Removal

Members received and noted a report from the Operations Manager on the need to remove a streetlight at Peppercorn Lane following advice from the Council's Streetlight contractor.

086 CCTV Reports

Members received and noted October 2024 CCTV incident report as provided by Huntingdonshire District Council.

The Clerk provided clarity on a previous query raised by Councillors on the number of St Neots cameras. HDC quarterly report states that there are 60 cameras in St Neots, but the map provided in the report does not identify 60 cameras. HDC have clarified that the cameras on the map indicate the different locations of cameras and that a location may have more than one camera. As well as cameras included in the SLA between HDC and SNTC, there are further cameras at One leisure and Waitrose, there are also two Rapid Deployment Cameras installed.

087 Public Toilet Leases

- i) Members received, considered and provided feedback on draft Heads of Terms for a lease between St Neots Town Council and Huntingdonshire District Council for public toilets at Riverside Car Park, St Neots.

RESOLVED that the Town Clerk sign the Heads of Terms with Huntingdonshire District Council for the lease of public toilets at Riverside Park, St Neots and bring back detailed lease agreements for consideration subject to 10 years not 20 and retaining SNTC/HDC contribution sharing towards vandalism/repair.

Town
Clerk

- ii) Members received, considered and provided feedback on draft Heads of Terms for a lease between St Neots Town Council and Huntingdonshire District Council for public toilets at Tebbutts Road, St Neots.

RESOLVED that the Town Clerk sign the Heads of Terms with Huntingdonshire District Council for the lease of public toilets at Tebbutts Road, St Neots and bring back detailed lease agreements for consideration subject to 10 years

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not 20 and retaining SNTC/HDC contribution sharing towards vandalism/repair.

088 Date of Next Meeting

Members noted that the date of the next Operations and Amenities Committee would be on 21st January 2025 at 7.15pm.

COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSON