

NOTTINGHAM CITY COUNCIL

TRUSTS AND CHARITIES COMMITTEE

MINUTES

of meeting held on **1 JUNE 2012** at

Loxley House from 2.00 pm to 3.26 pm

- ✓ Councillor Hartshorne (Chair)
- ✓ Councillor Molife (Vice-Chair)
- Councillor Ali
- ✓ Councillor Aslam (substitute for Councillor K Williams)
- Councillor Morris
- ✓ Councillor Jones
- Councillor Spencer
- Councillor Steel
- Councillor K Williams
- Councillor S Williams

- ✓ indicates present at meeting

Also in attendance:

Eddie Curry	-	Head of Parks and Open Spaces)	Communities
Barry Dryden	-	Senior Finance Manager)	
Malcolm Townroe	-	Legal Services Manager)	
Nick Quinsey	-	Acting Head of Estates)	Resources
Rav Kalsi	-	Constitutional Services Officer)	
Laura Wilson	-	Constitutional Services Officer)	

1 APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIR

RESOLVED that Councillor Molife be appointed Vice-Chair for the municipal year 2012/13.

2 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Spencer, Councillor Steel, Councillor Ali, Councillor K Williams and Councillor S Williams.

3 DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

No declarations of interests were made.

4 MINUTES

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 22 February 2012, copies of which had been circulated, be confirmed and signed by the Chair.

5 HIGHFIELDS PARK: HERITAGE AND BIG LOTTERY FUND, PARKS FOR PEOPLE RESTORATION AND IMPROVEMENT PROJECT: STAGE ONE APPLICATION

Further to minute 27 dated 22 February 2012, consideration was given to a report of the Director of Sport, Culture and Parks, copies of which had been circulated, seeking final sign-off and approval of the Highfields Park Landscape Restoration Plan. In addition, approval was also sought to submit a Stage One project Application to the Heritage and Big Lottery, Parks for People Fund (HBLPPF).

Subject to the Stage One approval from the Big Lottery, the report sought delegated authority for the Director of Sport, Culture and Parks to continue to develop a more detailed Stage Two application which would be submitted to the Big Lottery in 2013.

In response to comments and questions from the Committee, Eddie Curry, Head of Parks and Open Spaces, provided the following additional information:

- there was a community demand for the project following complaints of maintenance and infrastructural issues. In addition to this, it was noted that maintenance staff would be trained to provide appropriate care for the variety of horticultural species found in the park;
- there had been recent improvements with the restoration of the cascade, achieved at no cost through the continued support of Probation Services. The park had also benefited from the use of section 106 funding;
- the new proposals included the restoration of the ticket office, lake improvements which included de-silting and restoring the flow through the Tottle Brook, and improvements to the entrances;
- issues concerning congestion would be alleviated from areas surrounding the pavilion with the creation of a disabled car park at an alternative site within the development which would be more accessible. It was confirmed that the catering facilities would be expanded and a more contemporary paddling pool installed;
- the project would look to engage the community through a Park Ranger who would patrol the site and engage with local schools. The Head of Parks and Open Spaces confirmed that there would be continued co-operation with Probation Services and the Local Education Partnership, whilst also promoting the use of apprenticeships for local jobs;
- it was anticipated that the restoration project would last approximately 18 months to 2 years from funding to completion;

- in demonstrating a clear need for community support for the scheme, a series of consultation events were planned during summer 2012, including in Beeston and Wollaton and Lenton Abbey;
- the revised project costs at Stage One had now increased to £3.9 million. The additional cost was inclusive of the additional restoration and landscape features identified following consultation;
- the Head of Parks and Open Spaces would engage the Environment Agency, who administered the Tottle Brook, to encourage greater accountability.

RESOLVED that the following be approved:

- (1) the final sign off and approval of the Highfields Park Landscape Restoration Plan and the Stage One HBLPPF bid, as detailed in sections 1.2 – 1.5 of the report;**
- (2) the delegation of authority to the Director of Sports, Culture and Parks to continue the preparation and submission of the Stage One HBLPPF bid;**
- (3) subject to the receipt of Stage One approval from the Lottery, the delegation of authority to the Director of Sports, Culture and Parks to continue to develop a more detailed Stage Two application to be submitted to the Lottery in (or about) August 2013;**
- (4) that Nottingham City Council act as the accountable body for the delivery of Heritage Lottery Funding (HLF) project on behalf of the Highfields Leisure Trust.**

6 BRIDGE ESTATE PROPERTY PORTFOLIO

Further to minute 26 dated 22 February 2012, consideration was given to a report of the Director of Workplace Strategy and Property, copies of which had been circulated, identifying the properties held in the Bridge Estate Property Portfolio and detailed the current asset value and income. In addition, the report detailed the future investment strategy in respect of the Portfolio.

In response to comments and questions from the Committee, Nick Quinsey, Acting Head of Estates, provided the additional information:

- the asset register would be brought to Committee periodically allowing for a comprehensive update of the investment strategy and Portfolio arrangements;
- it was identified that the investment portfolio was good with a reasonable mix of properties but lacked established items of quality. The Portfolio would benefit from increased diversity in investment strategy;
- the potential for greater growth of capital and rental properties should be explored and a variety of potential income generators would be presented to Committee;

- a number of recommended disposals would be brought to Committee for approval, other than where delegated authority already existed;
- prior to any expansion of the allotment Portfolio, it was important to identify the existing internal allotment arrangements.

RESOLVED that:

- (1) the report be noted;
- (2) the strategy framework for future investment, as set out in the report, be agreed and adopted.

7 FUTURE MEETING DATES

RESOLVED that the Committee meet at 2pm on the following Fridays:

2012

**27 July
28 September
30 November**

2013

**4 January
22 February
26 April**