

Folkestone Town Council



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AGENDA

Meeting: **Folkestone Town Council**
Date: **20 February 2020**
Time: **6.00 p.m.**
Place: **Town Council Meeting Room, 1/2 Guildhall Street, Folkestone**

To: **Town Councillors**

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED to attend an extra-ordinary meeting of the Folkestone Town Council on the date and at the time and place shown above to transact the business shown on the agenda below. The meeting will be open to the press and public.

Any member who wishes to have information on any matter arising on the agenda which is not fully covered in these papers is requested to give notice prior to the meeting to the Town Mayor or Town Clerk.

J Childs
Town Clerk

1. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**
To receive and approve any apologies for absence.
2. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**
To receive any declarations of either personal or prejudicial interest that Members may wish to make.
3. **MATTERS AND RESOLUTIONS FROM OTHER COMMITTEES**
Community Services Committee 4th February 2020
Minute 1109. SMALL PARKS

Further to Members considerations and a review of Report C/19/258 it was



RESOLVED: To defer this item and request that it be taken back to Full Council on the basis of establishing a Small Parks Working Group (Councillors Belinda Walker, Paul Bingham, Michelle Keutenius, Peter Gane and Abena Akuffo Kelly) who will undertake site visits of each small park further to which an update report of findings will be presented to Members.

Proposed: Councillor Peter Gane

Seconded: Councillor Abena Akuffo - Kelly

Voting: F: 6, Ag: 0, Ab: 0

4. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

19th March 2020 – Ordinary Full Council Meeting, Town Hall

This report will be made
public on 7 November
2019

Folkestone
Town Council



Report Number **C/19/258**

To: Full Council
Date: 14 November 2019
Status: Public Report

Subject: FOLKESTONE SMALL PARKS

SUMMARY:

This report outlines the talks the Town Clerk has had with Folkestone & Hythe District Council regarding the transfer of eight Small Parks in Folkestone to the Town Council as part of a district wide play strategy.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

The Council is asked to agree the recommendations set out below because:-

- a) Folkestone Town Council have been asked to take responsibility for the 8 small parks via 30 year leases.
- b) Folkestone Town Council has always aspired to diversify for the good of the community it serves.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. To receive and note Report C/19/258
2. To approve the Town Clerk entering into lease negotiations.
3. To add a growth item to the budget of £25,000 per annum.

Aims and Objectives – *Quality Council Status*
Financial Implications – *£25,000 per annum*
Equal Opportunities – *Equal access to services*

1. INTRODUCTION

On the 12th September 2019, Councillor Peter Gane moved a motion to request that the Town Clerk enters into talks with Folkestone & Hythe District Council, to establish the number of play areas involved in their proposed priority play sites strategy, and whether the District Council are willing to transfer the non-priority sites, at no cost, to Town Council together with an upfront dowry, similar to that provided following the devolution of Public Realm CCTV and bring a report back to Town Council so that an informed discussion can commence regarding our willingness to take over the small plays areas of our town.

MINUTE 1627. NOTICE OF MOTIONS

RESOLVED: The Town Clerk to enter into talks with Folkestone & Hythe District Council, to establish the number of play areas involved in their proposed priority play sites strategy, and whether the District Council are willing to transfer the non-priority sites, at no cost, to Town Council together with an upfront dowry, similar to that provided following the devolution of Public Realm CCTV and bring a report back to Town Council so that an informed discussion can commence regarding our willingness to take over the small plays areas of our town.

Proposed: Councillor Peter Gane

Seconded: Councillor Roger West

Voting: F:16, Ag:1, Ab:0

2. PROVISION

The following eight small parks have been identified for potential transfer to Folkestone Town Council via 30 year leases with covenants that the land remains as public recreational ground:

Coniston Road, CT19 5SQ

Downs Road, CT19 5TH

Firs Lane, CT19 4QE

George Gurr, CT19 6LG

Naseby Avenue, CT20 3SJ

Pine Way, CT19 4QL

Roman Way, CT19 4QL

Southern Way, CT20 1PW

3. MAINTENANCE

All parks must be inspected 3 monthly and annually by a 3rd party qualified inspector. Best practice is to also undertake a visual inspection on a weekly basis, this does not need to be by a qualified inspector, but Council would have to be able to demonstrate competency.

The district council have had the annual ROSPA inspection of the park equipment and have indicated that they would be looking to offer a dowry of circa £45,000 this would cover the known repair costs following the annual report together with an allowance for unexpected vandalism &

repairs and the annual qualified ROSPA play area inspections (£68.50 per annum) for a five year period:

Coniston Road	£5,875
Downs Road	£4,350
Firs Lane	£5,475
George Gurr	£5,245
Naseby Avenue	£4,240
Pine Way	£7,175
Roman Way	£6,500
Southern Way	£6,725

FHDC currently undertake the weekly and 3 monthly inspections for most of the town and parish councils in the district but outsource the annual ones to ROSPA, the average price for the weekly and 3 monthly inspections is £800 per park per annum.

The above dowry does not include any provision to support grounds maintenance, office administration or the weekly/3 monthly safety inspections which Council would need to meet via a growth item, the initial growth could be met from the new services reserve.

Council will also need to fund its own legal costs relating to the proposed transfer.

4. OPTIONS

Option 1: To accept the transfer of the 8 small parks and instruct the Town Clerk to negotiate the terms of the leases and accept the proposed dowry.

Option 2: To accept the transfer of the 8 small parks and instruct the Town Clerk to negotiate the terms of the leases but seek a larger dowry to help offset the additional costs that would need to be met by the precept.

Option 3: Decline the offer for the transfer of the 8 small parks, which places them at risk of closure.

