

Christchurch Town Council

FULL COUNCIL

21 November 2022

Minute No 225. Transfer of Assets from BCP Council to Christchurch Town Council

Members considered a report regarding the consequences and financial implications that would rise from the transfer of following assets from BCP Council to the Christchurch Town Council, a copy of which had been circulated to each member a copy of which appears as Appendix 'D' to these Minutes in the Minute Book.

- Barrack Road Recreation Ground
- Mudeford Recreation Ground (part including the Play Area)
- Play Area at Endfield Road
- Play Area at Knapp Mill Avenue
- Play Area at Mudeford Quay
- Play Area at River Way
- Play Area at Rutland Road
- Two Play Areas at Watermans Park
- Skatepark at Two Riversmeet Arena
- Skatepark at Watermans Park

The Mayor explained that this matter was previously discussed within the Council where Members considered the effects and financial implications of the transfer of the above -mentioned assets.

Cllr McCormack pointed out various maintenance and inspection issues/costs that have to be carefully considered as this transfer would also mean a transfer of liability from BCP to the Council. He explained that the Council would be liable for the maintenance of all trees, equipment, flooring and other elements such as bins, benches, lighting, signage. He also highlighted that the Council would be liable for safety and security of these sites and that these sites would have to be regularly inspected. Highlighting the potential impact of these additional costs on precept, he suggested that the Council should only take the assets that it could add value to.

A Member suggested that the Council should accept the transfer of all assets as the Council currently did not have many assets and pointed out that these assets were already budgeted. He suggested that the Council should take the responsibility of all these assets but in return, ask for more money from the BCP for the assets and request proof of expenditure from BCP regarding the maintenance of these assets.

The Project Officer explained that the BCP Council had already advised that the (£5,000) contribution for each asset was ringfenced in their budget and that no further sums would be ringfenced to hand over to the Town Council.

Members agreed that the Council should accept the transfer of Barrack Road Recreation Ground and the Skateparks at Two Riversmeet Arena and Watermans Park and do not take on the other play areas. A Member highlighted the potential of Barrack Road Recreation Ground in terms of its location and proximity to Twynham Secondary School. Members agreed that building a multifunctional building/pavilion (Youth Club, Community Centre) at the Barrack Road Recreation Ground would be of great benefit for young people and would help the Council deal with antisocial behaviour. Another Member pointed out the potential of the two Skateparks in providing events and services for young people.

RESOLVED that the Interim Town Clerk be delegated to write on behalf of the Council to BCP Council accepting the transfer of the following Recreational Grounds and Skate Parks:

1) Barrack Road Recreation Ground, Barrack Road, Christchurch

2) Skatepark at Two Riversmeet Arena, Stony Lane South, Christchurch

3) Skatepark at Watermans Park, Dorset Road, Christchurch

Voting: Unanimous

Proposed: Cllr McCormack

Seconded: Cllr Jones