

MINUTES of the MEETING of the RECREATION, LEISURE & AMENITIES COMMITTEE held at THE COUNCIL OFFICES, THE GROVE, SWANSCOMBE on TUESDAY 20 JULY 2021 at 7.00PM

**PRESENT:** Councillor Peter Harman - Chairman  
Councillor Anita Barham  
Councillor Ann Duke  
Councillor Linda Hall  
Councillor John Hayes  
Councillor Lesley Howes

**ALSO PRESENT:** Graham Blew - Town Clerk  
Martin Harding - Assistant Town Clerk/RFO

**ABSENT:** There were none

**120/21-22. ARRANGEMENTS AND CONSTRAINTS REGARDING FILMING OR RECORDING THE MEETING.**

The arrangements and constraints relating to the filming or recording of the meeting were explained.

**121/21-22. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.**

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Emma Ben Moussa, due to other commitments.

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Lorna Cross, due to other commitments.

An apology for lateness was also received from Councillor Ann Duke.

An apology for absence was received from the Senior Groundsman Gardener, due to medical reasons.

**RESOLVED:**

That the reasons for absence, for the above Town Councillors, be formally accepted and approved.

**122/21-22. SUBSTITUTES.**

There were none.

**123/21-22. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST IN ITEMS ON THE AGENDA.**

Councillor Linda Hall declared a prejudicial interest in agenda item 7.3, Allotment Update, as she is the Chairman of the Swanscombe and Greenhithe Allotment & Garden Association.

Councillor Ann Duke declared a prejudicial interest in agenda item 10, Grove Hall, as she is the Chief Executive Officer of Walk Tall.

***As per Standing Order 34 c) the Chairman adjourned the meeting at this point to allow members of the public to address the meeting in relation to the business being transacted at the meeting.***

**124/21-22. ITEMS DEEMED URGENT BY THE CHAIRMAN / MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES AND THEIR POSITION ON THE AGENDA.**

There were none.

**125/21-22. TO APPROVE AND SIGN THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 19 MARCH 2020.**

**Recommended:** That the Minutes of the Meeting held on 19 March 2020 were approved and signed as a true record.

**126/21-22. SENIOR GROUNDSMAN /GARDENER'S REPORT.**

Members were provided with a copy of the report which updated members on the work undertaken, by the Parks Department and the work planned for the future which included:

Broomfield Park, Heritage Park, Knockhall Park, Swanscombe Park, Saxon Court, Valley View and Equipment.

**Recommended:** That the report be noted.

**TOWN CLERK AND RESPONSIBLE FINANCIAL OFFICER'S REPORT.**

**127/21-22. RIDE-ON MOWER.**

Further to the previous item members were asked to agree to the purchase of a replacement ride-on mower. This would be either brand new or second hand depending on availability and suitability.

The current broken ride-on was purchased brand new in early 2015 at a cost of £5,703.00. The last repair undertaken on this machine was in October 2020 and cost approximately £1,500.00 and the latest fault is known to have a large cost to it for repair, if the repair is even possible.

The value of a replacement would be between £3,000 and £9,000, suitable funds for this expenditure have been built up in the vehicle and equipment's budgets contained within the Financial Risk Assessments (FRA).

**Recommended:** That the replacement of the ride-on mower as detailed above be approved.

**128/21-22. HERITAGE PARK UPDATE.**

Members considered the update report which included: Pond Liner, Fencing & Gate, Planting and Decking and Seating.

**Recommended:** That the contents of the update report be noted.

**129/21-22. ALLOTMENTS UPDATE**

Members were informed that the annual allotment site visits between officers/members and the Allotment Association have been scheduled for Thursday 19 August 2021.

**Recommended:** That the item be noted.

**130/21-22. ELECTRIC VEHICLE CHARGING POINTS UPDATE.**

A verbal update was provided for members which advised that a delay had occurred with the installation of the charging points due to a third-party company needing to install the electricity meter in the system.

**Recommended:** That the update be noted.

**131/21-22. DELEGATION TO CONDUCT NORMAL BUSINESS DURING RECESS PERIOD.**

Members were requested to delegate authority to the Town Clerk, in accordance with section 101 (1) (a) of the Local Government Act 1972, to conduct the normal business of the Council during the recess period. The Town Clerk would consult with the Town Mayor, if appropriate, before any business is transacted. If any emergencies do occur during this time the Executive & Emergency Committee would be convened.

**Recommended:** That, in accordance with section 101 (1) (a) of the Local Government Act 1972 the Town Clerk be delegated authority to conduct the normal business of the Council during the recess period.

**132/21-22. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC.**

MOVED BY Councillor John Hayes and seconded by Councillor Anita Barham;

**RESOLVED:**

That, pursuant to section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, that because of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted, the public and press leave the meeting during consideration of the following item(s).

No members of the press or public were present during discussion of the following items of business.

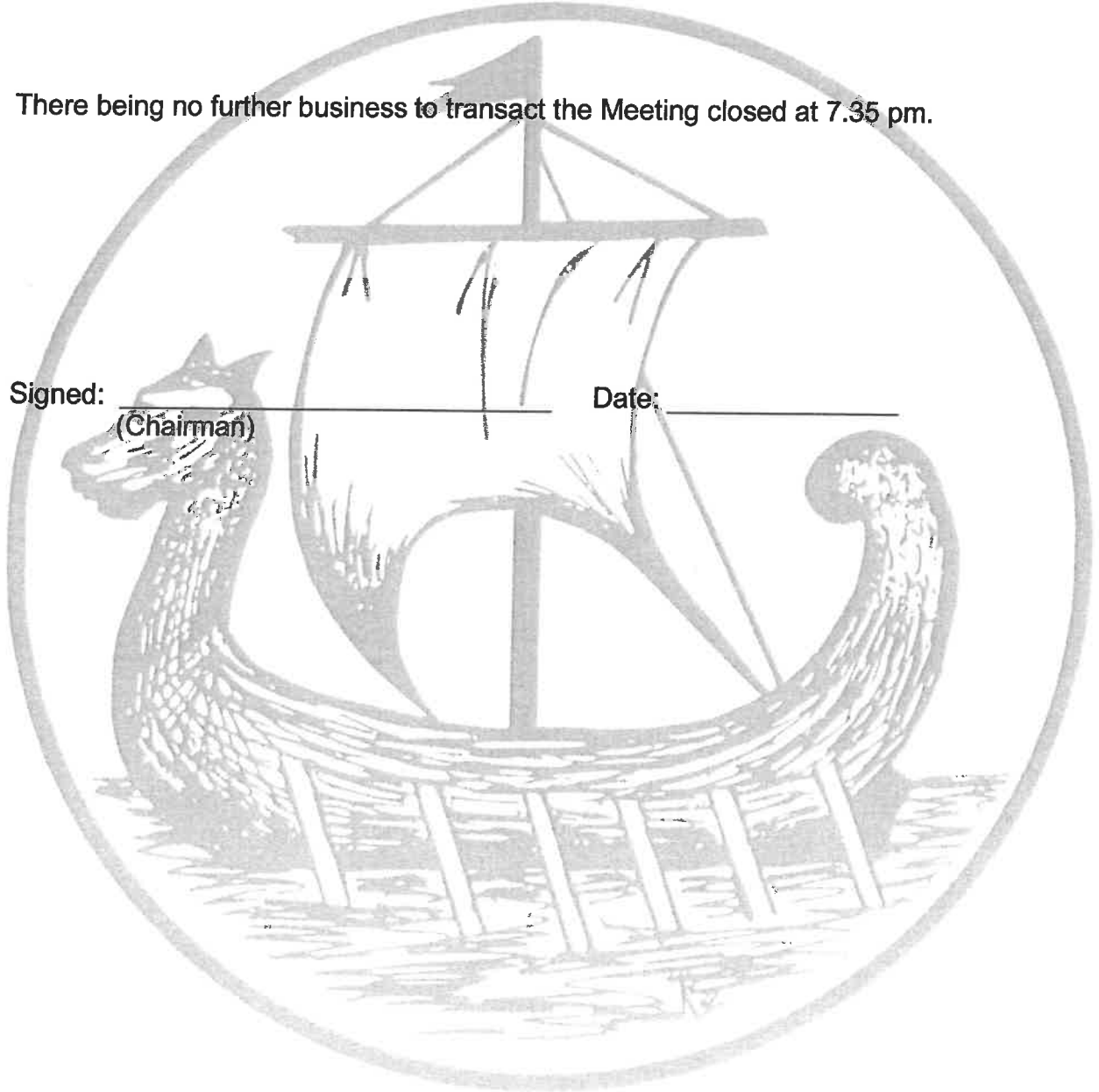
133/21-22. GROVE HALL.

After discussing the contents of the confidential report, it was proposed, seconded, and duly agreed that, rather than proceed with the proposal contained in the report the suggestion provided by the Parks Department be used.

**Recommended:** That the Town Clerk implement the suggestion put forward from the Parks Department.

There being no further business to transact the Meeting closed at 7.35 pm.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Chairman)



RLA 23/9/21

PARKS REPORT  
RLA – 23 SEPTEMBER 2021

The summer saw the successful return of the Children's Entertainment and activities as well as the annual outdoor cinema events.  
All play equipment was reinstated after the Covid restrictions were lifted.

- **Broomfield:**

All football pitches have been prepared and the season is now underway.

The cricket season has finished and autumn reparations are required.

Shrubs around the council offices have been cut back and shrub pruning within the park will be undertaken.

The vandalised kissing gate has been repaired.

- **Eagles Road:**

Shrub and tree pruning will take place during autumn and winter.

A new bench is due to be installed.

- **Heritage Park:**

Contractors have completed the decking in the pond area.

Some shrub cutting has been completed done and will be continued during the autumn and winter.

A piece of wooden play equipment has broken and has been made safe.

To improve visibility, and raise awareness, the edges of the steps leading to the rear of Childs Crescent will be re-painted yellow.

Several Orchid species are thriving within the park.

- **Knockhall:**

The football pitches have been prepared, pre-season matches have been completed and the new season is underway.

A damaged back board has been replaced on the large multiply unit.

A very large branch fell from a Poplar and was removed and made safe by

contractors. A branch from a neighbouring tree fell the next day and was cleared by parks staff.

- **Manor Park:**

A large branch fell unexpectedly during a period of heavy rain and was made safe by contractors and cleared by parks staff.

Shrub cutting is due to take place over the coming weeks.

- **Swanscombe Park:**

The bowls season finishes at the end of September and the bowls green will require extensive reparations as the late spring frosts, continuous damage by animals and general wear and tear have left the green in a poor condition this year.

Work on both the Community Garden and the new Picnic Area are continuing.

Shrub pruning is underway and will continue during the autumn.

- **Saxon Court:**

The broken post on the children's trim trail has been replaced and the swinging plank has been reinstated.

A new bench is schedule to be installed soon.

Shrub cutting will be undertaken in the coming weeks.

- **Valley View:**

The new piece play equipment recently installed has been well received by park users.

An additional bench is to be installed soon.

- **Equipment:**

Work on the tractor has been undertaken by a contractor.

The cricket roller has been repaired by a contractor.

All of the vans are due to have their annual services in October

**Recommended:**

To note.



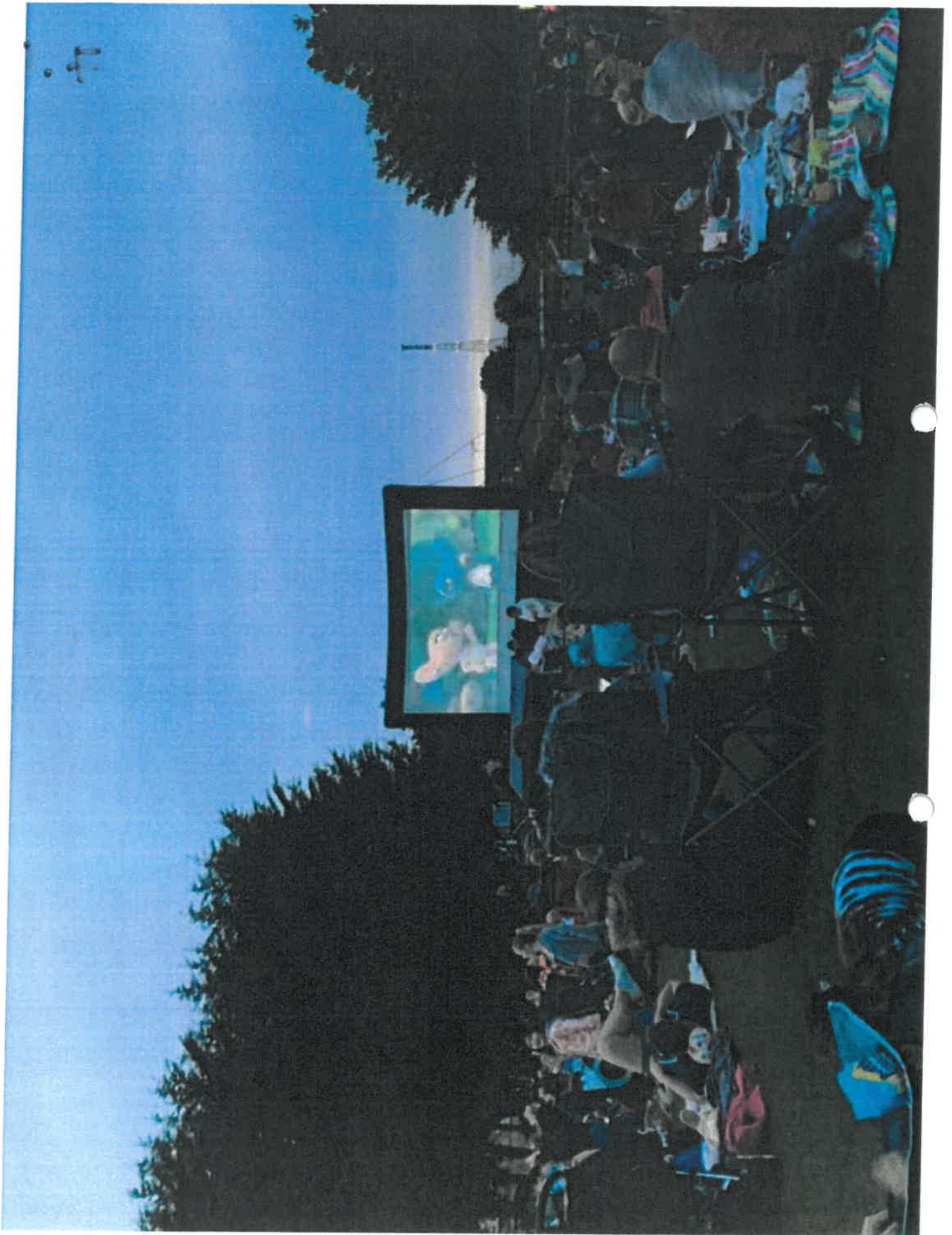
AGENDA ITEM

RLA 23/9/21

7.1









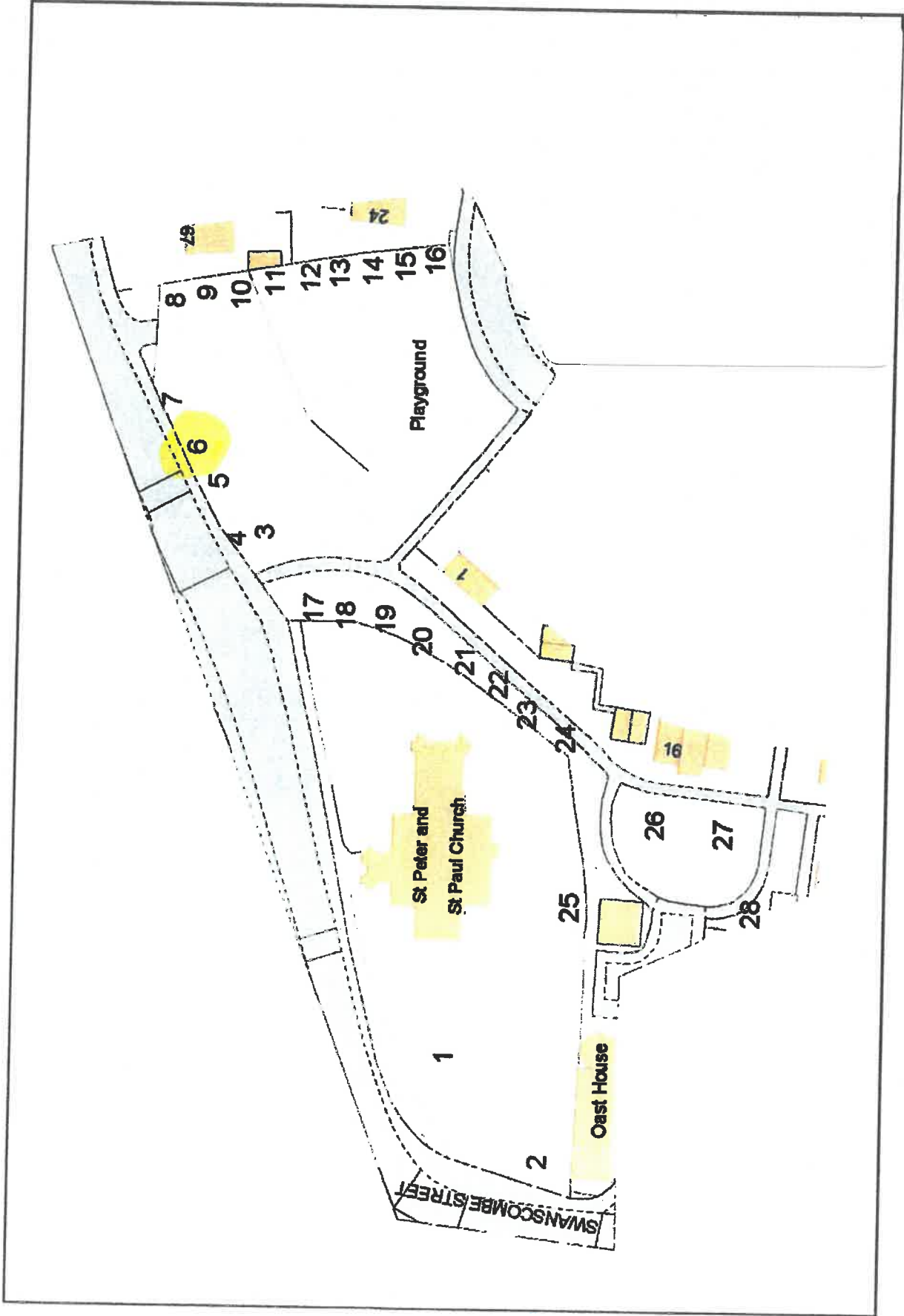
AGENDA ITEM

RLA 23/9/21

7.2

- 
- Express 24hr Service
  - Any Distance
  - Storage Facility
  - Single Items
  - Furniture / Appliances
  - House Clearance
  - Commercial Removals
  - Price Match Guarantee

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## TREE SURGEON'S ADVICE

I saw the Robinia that shed a limb recently at Manor Park on Friday.

Robinias are generally fairly hardy trees that can withstand a good degree of dysfunctional bark areas. These areas tend to go hard and persist for a very long time.

The tree in question is mature and has been climbed in recent years and had dead wood removed. The main trunk from where the failure of the limb happened and above are beginning to have areas of excessive decay that could link up with the wound caused by the failure of the limb.

There is also, adjacent to where the limb failed, a main fork that has an established small shrub growing in it. This would indicate that there is a sufficient cavity to trap organic debris and water to sustain the shrub. Normally, on its own, this would not be such an issue, but the three defects in close proximity raise the risk levels to a point where removal of the tree is the safe option.

It is within the realms of possibility that the next failure will be in the region of the main fork. Predicting when is not possible due to the probabilistic nature of the weather and decay that is inferred.

My recommendation is that within the next 6 months the tree be felled. There is little future in a reduction, any regrowth from a hard reduction would be likely to have poor fork formation that would lead to future problems.

I will include pictures of the tree showing it's defects with the quotation.

The tree in question has been marked with a red paint spot by me.



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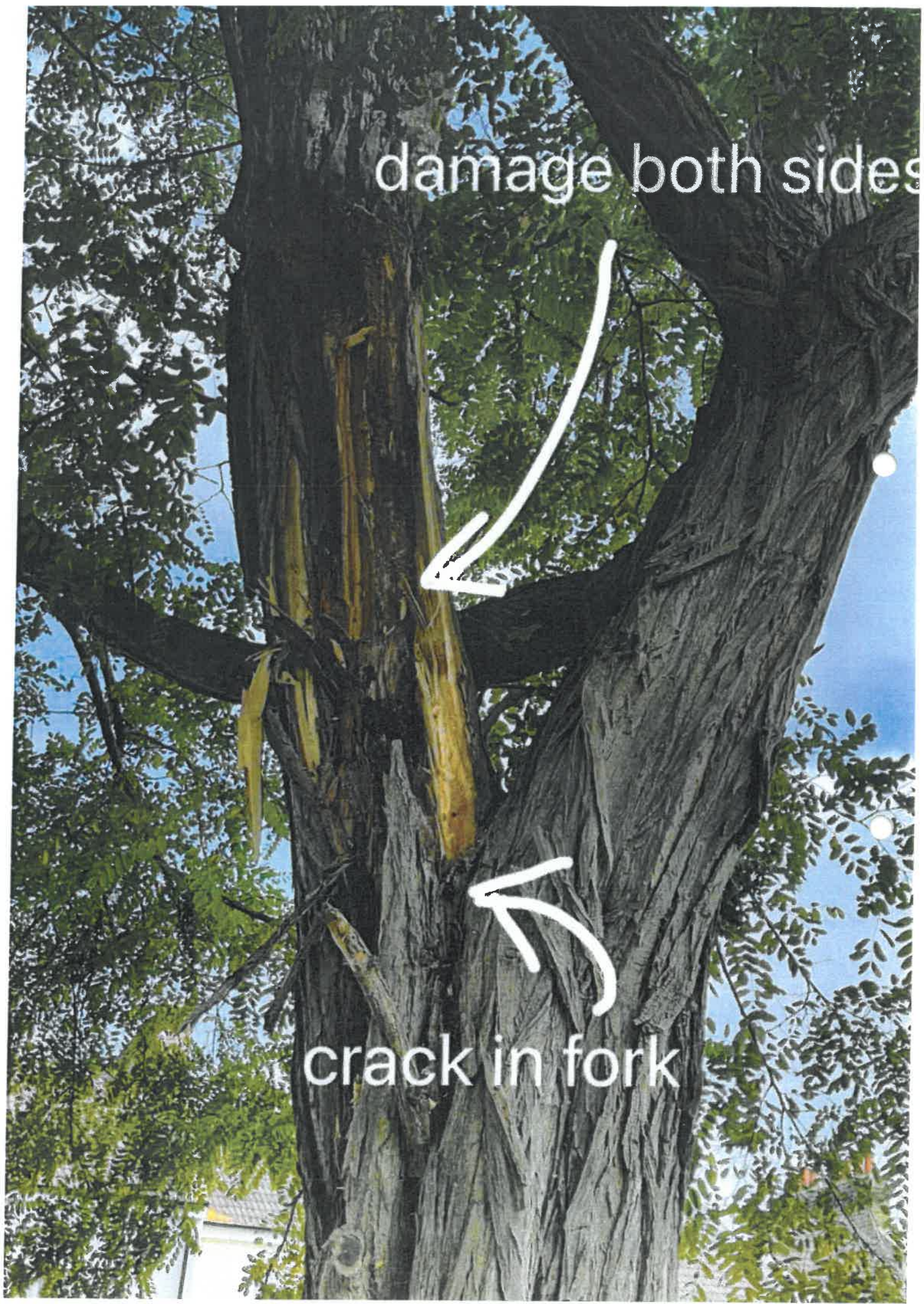
weak point



damage both sides



crack in fork





DECEMBER 2021						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
28	29	30	1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	
	BANK HOLIDAY	BANK HOLIDAY	X	X	X	

# JANUARY 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2	3 BANK HOLIDAY	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31	1	2	3	4	5