



19th February 2025

GREATNESS RECREATION GROUND WORKING GROUP

To be held in the Council Chamber, Town Council Offices,
Wednesday 26th February 2025 at 2.00pm

Town Councillors are reminded that they have a duty to state a Declaration of Interest prior to the appropriate agenda item and to consider the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 s.17 when reaching a decision.

Members of the public are welcome to attend the meeting.

Working Group Members:

Quorum minimum of 3 elected members:

Cllr Dr Marilyn Canet	Cllr Victoria Granville
Cllr Claire Shea	Cllr Chloe Gustard

AGENDA

1	<u>APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE</u> To receive and note apologies for absence.	-
2	<u>REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATIONS</u> To consider written requests from Members which have previously been submitted to the Town Clerk to enable participation in discussion and voting on items for which the Member has a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest. (s.31 & s.33 of the Localism Act 2011).	-

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3	<u>DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST</u> To receive any declarations of interest from members in respect of any items of business included in this agenda.	-
4	<u>MINUTES OF THE GREATNESS RECREATION GROUND WORKING GROUP HELD ON 18TH DECEMBER 2024</u> To receive and agree the Minutes of the Greatness Recreation Ground Working Group meeting held on 18 th December 2024.	Attached
5	<u>GREATNESS RECREATION GROUND PLAY AREA SURVEY</u> To receive and note the update on the play area survey.	Attached
6	<u>FRIENDS OF GREATNESS RECREATION GROUND GROUP</u> To receive an update on the Friends of Greatness Ground Group	Attached
7	<u>CURRENT MATTERS</u> To consider updates on current matters.	Attached
8	<u>PRESS RELEASE</u> To consider any agenda item considered appropriate for a press release.	-

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Greatness Recreation Ground Working Group
Held on 18th December 2024 at the Town Council Offices**

Meeting Commenced: 2.00 p.m.

Meeting Concluded: 3:05 p.m.

Present: (Quorum minimum of 3 members)

Cllr Claire Shea (Chair)	Present	Cllr Dr Merilyn Canet	Present
Cllr Victoria Granville	Present	Cllr Chloe Gustard	Present

Also in Attendance:

Town Clerk, Open Spaces and Cemetery Manager, Open Spaces & Leisure Committee Clerk,
Paul Lansdale – Chair of Sevenoaks Football Club, Karen Hilson Greatness Residents
Association Representative

256. Apologies for Absence

None.

257. Requests for Dispensations

There were no requests for dispensations.

258. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

259. Minutes of the Greatness Recreation Ground Working Group held on 16th October 2024

RESOLVED: The minutes of the Greatness Recreational Working Group held on the 26th June 2024 were agreed as a true record.

260. Greatness Pavilion Update

The Working Group noted that a new tender figure was due to be received by 20th December and that an amendment will be submitted for planning. The chair of the Sevenoaks Football club advised that the Football Foundation grant application is due to be submitted by 10th January 2025.

261. Friends of Greatness Recreation Ground Group

The new draft for the Friends of Greatness Recreation Ground Group poster was noted by the group. It was noted that the poster would be reviewed, updated and circulated with images from the Greatness Recreation Ground.

262. Greatness Recreation Ground Potential Relocation of Play Area Survey

The draft survey was reviewed. It was agreed to add the following questions:

- Would you prefer the play area to be
Contained within fencing?
Open trail?
- Outdoor Gym equipment
Would you prefer to remain in current location and path installed?

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Karen Hilson stated that as a resident and Chair of the Greatness Resident Association she could not support the proposal for the new proposed location of the play area. It was noted that the Resident Association had been successful in obtaining funding for local projects previously and would be willing to try and help with this again for a play area but not in this location.

It was agreed to progress with the public survey and review the results including where the comments originated from.

263. Current Matters

Current Matters were noted. It was agreed to include Parking Matters on the next agenda. Also to refer to the STC Movement & Net Zero Working Group the need for double yellow lines at the junction of Mill Lane and A25.

264. Press Release

It was agreed that a Press Release would be issued about the play area survey when it was released in the new year.

265. Dates of Future Meetings

The following future meeting dates were noted:

Wednesday 26th February 2025: 2pm

Monday 28th April 2025: 2pm

There being no further business the Chair closed the meeting.

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Greatness Recreation Ground Play Area Survey

The Greatness Recreation Ground play area survey has been published and circulated on 20th January 2025. To date we have received 31 responses with over a half of respondents supporting the relocation of the play area to the proposed site. Nearly two thirds of respondents would prefer a ‘fenced’ play area to an ‘open trail’ option.

In contrast, responses to the relocation of the outdoor gym were more varied; approximately 45% of responses did not agree or were undecided with the new proposed location.

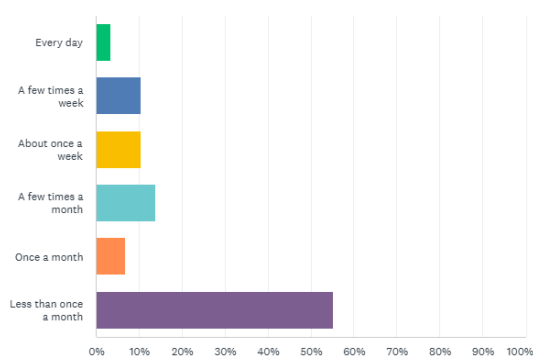
Other comments included:

- a request for a bigger playground
- information on relocation of futsal pitches
- management of anti-social behaviour if play area is to be relocated to a less visible location.

The survey is currently still live, and it is hoped that more responses will be received. It is important to note that the majority of surveyed persons did not use the recreation ground regularly.

How often do you, your family, or friends use the current play area?

Answered: 29 Skipped: 2



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES	
▼ Every day	3.45%	1
▼ A few times a week	10.34%	3
▼ About once a week	10.34%	3
▼ A few times a month	13.79%	4
▼ Once a month	6.90%	2
▼ Less than once a month	55.17%	16
TOTAL		29

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Friends of Greatness Recreation Ground

In 2024 The Sevenoaks Town Council sought to find out whether an interest in a Friends of Greatness Group existed. Following the initial Greatness Recreation Ground 2023 Public Survey, 7 residents had noted interest in joining the group.

Currently, following the circulation of the Greatness Recreation Play Area Survey, 5 more residents have noted an interest involvement in the group.

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CURRENT MATTERS**NB: Updates shown in red**

	Minute No.	Item	Status	Latest Update
1	6 25.04.24 57 26.06.24 134 19.08.24	Play Area	Ongoing	<p>RESOLVED:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To investigate feasibility of moving the play area to the current ‘futsal’ area. A new plan to be created. Cllr Shea to liaise with nearby residents to include different play area and ‘mini’ football pitches. Consider the opportunity to also install some ‘trial’ equipment elsewhere on the site. Noted that the open space does cater for older children at the skateboard park. Introduce ‘Make Space for Girls’ principles where possible. <p>RESOLVED: To design a survey to residents regarding the suggestion to move the current play area.</p> <p>a) The Group received and noted a draft survey seeking views on the proposed relocation of the Play Area.</p> <p>b) The Responsible Finance Officer / Deputy Town Clerk reported that a funding application to aid in delivering the proposals had been made to the Community Ownership Fund for £240,000, however the process had been delayed due to local elections.</p> <p>c) Members considered that publication of the survey should be delayed until after outcome of the funding application had been received, and budget secured to deliver the project.</p> <p>d) It was agreed that consideration of the draft survey be deferred to the next Greatness Recreation Ground Working Group meeting on 16th October, in order to include update on potential funding, as well as to allow time for the emerging Friends of Greatness Recreation Ground to review and input on the proposals.</p> <p>The Government held the applications for the Community Ownership Fund and have not yet decided if they will proceed with this funding.</p>
2	8 25.04.24	Items for Future Agendas	Ongoing	<p>The following topics were brought forward as topics for future discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <u>CCTV and Security at park</u> New CCTV in collaboration with the Football Club to be installed on the existing poles at the site as a deterrent for Anti-social behaviour at the site. <u>Flooding</u>

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	59 26.06.24 136 19.08.2024			<p>Noted that Sevenoaks District Council had met with Thames Water regarding flooding in the Northern Ward, the councillors mentioned that storm water runoff from buildings has been going into the sewage system. It was noted that they are looking into ways to prevent this at the planning stages moving forward.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Events at park</u> Consideration to be given to status of the recreational ground and whether it should be moved to a park status where events could be held in the future. Noted Premises License would be required for the site. • <u>Artwork</u> Noted that more future art installations with cultural ties similar to the infinity project would be of interest to the area. • <u>Railings at Cemetery</u> RESOLVED: To arrange for signs to be created, explaining that the gates in railings are designated for maintenance access. a) It was noted that previous events had been very well attended and publicised. b) Cllr Dr Canet volunteered to bring copies of the Friends of Greatness Recreation Ground advertisement poster to the 22nd August Wind in the Willows performance.
3	58 26.06.24 7 16.10.2024	Recreation Ground & Dog Use	Ongoing	<p>RESOLVED: To invite Sevenoaks District Council's Animal Welfare Officer to the next meeting of the Greatness Recreational Ground Working Group on Monday 19th of August.</p> <p>Sevenoaks Football Club have advised STC of purchasing signs asking dog walkers to have their dogs on leads during practice.</p>
4	59 26.06.24 137 19.08.2024	Friends of Greatness Recreational Ground-	Ongoing	<p>RESOLVED: To promote and try to establish this Friends Group.</p> <p>5 residents have shown interest in being involved with the group. Awaiting further responses with the continued promotion of the Greatness Recreation Ground Play Area Survey.</p> <p>e) Members proposed that potential projects of the emerging Friends of Greatness Recreation Ground be extracted from the Management Plan to create the scope of the Group – in particular from the Aims section, as well as review of proposals for the Play Area. It was agreed that the scope form</p>

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				part of the agenda papers for the next meeting on 16th October 2024.
5	137 19.08.2024	Greatness Recreation Ground Management Plan	Ongoing	<p>a) The Open Spaces and Cemetery Manager reported that improved access to the gym equipment is often enquired about, however that erecting a path adjacent to the Football pitch would be difficult. He further advised that grass maintenance has been delayed, due to only two Open Spaces team members being able to operate the tractor. Recruitment for ground staff had so far been unsuccessful, with the two qualified team members doing the best they can to maintain all Town Council Open Spaces.</p> <p>b) Members agreed that the Management Plan's Aims as per Section 5 could be reviewed once clarity is received on funding of the new Football Pavilion. Councillors discussed aspirations for more art installations, including a hand carved totem pole.</p> <p>c) The Planning Committee Clerk proposed a number of minor amendments to grammar throughout the document, as well as recommending that data figures cited in Section 2 be updated if there is newer information. She also advised that the Woodland Trust offer free tree packs of up to 420 trees twice a year and suggested that this information could be added to Aim iii.</p> <p>d) It was agreed that the updated management plan be noted, with the above amendments to be made.</p>