

Sevenoaks Town Council
Minutes of the Open Spaces & Leisure Committee held on Monday 28th September 2020
Via Zoom

Committee Members present:

Cllr Dr M Canet (Chairman)	Present	Cllr K Bonin	Present
Cllr A Eyre (Vice Chairman)	Present	Cllr S Camp	Apologies
Cllr N Busvine OBE	Apologies	Cllr R Hogarth	Present
Cllr V Granville- Baxter	Apologies	Cllr Raikes	Apologies
Cllr L Michaelides	Present	Cllr R Parry	Present
Cllr T Morris Brown	Present		

Substitute	For
Cllr Piper	Cllr Raikes
Cllr Shea	Cllr Granville Baxter

In attendance: Town Clerk, Open Spaces Manager, Committee Clerk.

Note: The meeting was recorded.

Public Question Time

There were no members of the public present.

213. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

As noted above.

214. REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATION

There were no requests for dispensations.

215. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

216. MINUTES OF THE OPEN SPACES AND LEISURE COMMITTEE HELD ON 6th JULY 2020

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Open Spaces and Leisure Committee held on 6th July 2020 be agreed as a true record.

217. OPEN SPACES & CEMETERY MANAGERS REPORT

The report of the Open Spaces and Cemetery Manager was received and discussed, and the following matters noted.

i) Staff

Noted the measures in place to ensure the team could continue to operate should any member become unwell with Covid-19 or need to self-isolate.

ii) Sevenoaks Common

The Japanese Knotweed has been treated successfully. It is expected to return next year but we will be vigilantly watching for any regrowth.

An update report was given on the Greensands Common project.

iii) The Vine

Work had been undertaken to ensure that the mess left from anti-social behaviour around the Vine and surrounding areas had been dealt with promptly and efficiently. Councillors praised and thanked the Open Spaces Team for the hard work they have put in during this very difficult time.

iv) Tree Planting

It was noted that the tree planted in memory of John London and the Mayor's Oak had failed to bud due to the extremely dry spring. Both will be replaced.

v) Digital Cemetery Mapping

Access to digital mapping would be free to use. Having this facility brought us up to date with many other councils. The Committee extended thanks to Linda Redden for all the work she put into setting-up the digital mapping system, as well as the work she did at Bat & Ball Station. Good luck wishes for the future were also extended as she leaves Sevenoaks Town Council.

vi) 'Zero' The Van

Cllr Parry complimented the choice of the name Zero and the fun logo for the new electric van.

218. FEES & CHARGES FOR SPORTS FACILITIES AND CEMETERY

RESOLVED: To defer the review of charges for sports facilities and the cemetery to the next meeting, to be held on the 9th November 2020.

219. SPORTS CLUB RENTS DURING COVID-19 TO CONSIDER RENT RELIEF

RESOLVED: That the sports clubs rental fees remain as originally agreed.

220. STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS

The accounts to 31st August 2020 were received and noted.

221. ALLOTMENT REPORT

It was noted that there was now a waiting list for all the allotments. Cllr Dr Canet commented that it was a good sign that residents were now wishing to lead a healthier life by growing their own produce. The Committee thanked Ruth King, Allotments Manager, for her hard work.

222. BUS SHELTER REPLACEMENT

It was noted that grant funding of £2,778, being 50% of the replacement bus shelter cost, had been confirmed by Kent County Council.

223. BRITAINS COMMON HEDGEROW PLANTING

Details of the Britains Common hedgerow planting were noted.

224. SEVENOAKS IN BLOOM

The Open Spaces Team was congratulated on the hard work put into making the town look so wonderful, enabling the Town Council to continue receiving high marks. Special thanks went to the Deputy Town Clerk, for the work she has put into this project at a very difficult time.

225. SUMMER ENTERTAINMENT

Cllr Shea thanked the Town Clerk for organising Wind in the Willows outdoor performances which ran for three days in August, providing much needed family entertainment to the town.

226. CURRENT MATTERS

366VI	Vine & Cycle racks	Work would start in the new year once work for the chair storage unit had commenced. <i>Cycle planter to be installed.</i> Cycle planters have arrived and are being prepared to use regarding the town's recovery plan. <i>Awaiting news on Buckhurst market.</i> To be used at Bat & Ball Centre and The Vine and other locations to be agreed.
223	Renovation of St Nicholas War Memorial	Grant from War Memorials Trust agreed. St Nicholas Church is applying for permission from the Diocese for the work to be carried out. Permission should be received in February 2020. Contractor will then undertake refurbishment of the inscriptions in accordance with the method statement. <i>Stonemasons have recently cleaned the memorial.</i> Completed.
226	Anti-Litter Campaign	Several litter picking days had taken place and a new recycling bin would be installed at Greatness Recreational Ground shortly.

		<i>Ongoing.</i> Due to the Covid-19 outbreak litter picking was cancelled. However, many locals are tackling the ongoing problem with litter. <i>Two litter pick days have been organised for the 23rd September around Sevenoaks Town and the 25th September starting at Sevenoaks Station working through to Upper High St Gardens.</i> Councillor's and volunteers spent the 23rd September cleaning the town centre. The scheduled clean on the 25th was cancelled due to adverse weather conditions, however a new date will be set in October to replace the cancelled day.
176/5 VI	Hillingdon Rise Green	Leaflet drop to be arranged regarding parking on grass. <i>Cllr's to canvas public about parking on the grass.</i>
176/5 VII	Tree Planting	Open Spaces Manager to liaise with tarmac in relation to offer of trees. <i>To produce a leaflet encouraging the public to sponsor or adopt a tree.</i> Ongoing.
352 (II) 11.11.2019	Greatness Cemetery Mess Room	Install new building as energy efficient as possible. <i>New building has been ordered and should arrive before Christmas.</i> A new mess room will be of a higher security standard and will have full amenities.
178	Friends of Greatness Cemetery	To be launched in autumn 2019. <i>Launch in February 2020.</i> The launch has been delayed due to Covid-19. The leaflet is completed and ready to go to print and we hope to launch later this year.

		<i>To launch early 2021.</i> Ongoing.
352 11.11.2019	Pontoise Recreation Ground	Work Grant to be claimed. <i>Completed.</i>
304 30.09.2019	Quaker Hall Allotments	Install additional water pipes and water butts. <i>Ongoing.</i>
499 17.02.2020	Purchase of Electric Van	Purchased and awaiting delivery. <i>The new electric van has been in service for just over a month and is aptly named 'Zero.'</i>
503 17.02.2020	Greatness Football Pavilion Proposal	Arrange for presentation to councillors. Took place 6.7.2020 <i>Ongoing.</i>
96 07.07.2020	St John's Toilets	Refurbishment to be progressed subject to landowners (SDC) permission.
97 07.07.2020	War Memorial Additional Inscription	This was completed and new name is now added to the memorial.
351/1	Jubilee Clock	Referred to F & GP <i>Work to begin on repairs on Wednesday 30th September.</i>

227. PRESS RELEASE

It was agreed that a press release be issued to thank volunteers and the Open Spaces Team on their work this summer and to reinforce that Sevenoaks is a safe place to use.

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 8.05pm

Chairman Dated