

Minutes of the meeting of the OPEN SPACES & LEISURE COMMITTEE held in the Council Chamber, Town Council Offices, Bradbourne Vale Road, Sevenoaks on Monday 22 September 2014 at 7.00pm

Present:

Committee Members

Cllr S Arnold	Present	Cllr Mrs M London – Vice Chairman	Present
Cllr C L L Baker	Present	Cllr R J Parry	Present
Cllr J M Canet	Present	Cllr S Raikes – Mayor	Present
Cllr A Eyre – Chairman	Present	Cllr P E Towell	Present
Cllr R M C Hogarth	Present	Cllr Mrs P C Walshe	Present

Also present:

Town Clerk
Committee Clerk
Open Spaces Manager
Cllr R L Piper

2 Members of SAHA

103 REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATIONS

No requests for Dispensation had been received from Members to enable participation in discussion on items on the agenda which the Member has a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest. [S 31 & 33 Localism Act 2011 refers].

104 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None received.

105 MINUTES

It was **RESOLVED that** the minutes of the meeting of the Open Spaces & Leisure Committee held on 14th July 2014 be received and signed, with the following adjustment made.

Public Question Time "... not a member of SAHA Executive Committee".

106 STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS

The statement of accounts from July 2014 was received and noted.

It was **REQUESTED that** an update on the comments relating to the budget of Raleys Gym and War Memorial expenditure be circulated after the meeting.

107 SEVENOAKS TOWN SPORTS STRATEGY

The minutes from the Sports Strategy meeting held on 16th July 2014 were received and noted.

It was **REQUESTED that** Cllr Raikes be noted as a member of Sevenoaks Town Council on the minutes not a member of Sevenoaks District Council.

Cllr Canet raised a query regarding the Greatness Recreation ground public toilets and when these would be updated. It was stated that the Sevenoaks Football Club was still waiting for funding in order to vacate the area to a new venue in order for works to start. Cllr Piper raised a query regarding where funding will come from and concerns over the timescale of the project.

Cllr Eyre stated that the Council would still need to decide where to allocate funds and further details will be discussed at a Blue Skies meeting prior to the end of 2014.

It was stated that the replacement of Raleys Gym and the Indoor Cricket School are the only commitments that the Council has at this time.

It was stated that information relating to the School Sports provision would be brought to the next Sports Strategy Meeting on 30th October 2014.

Cllr Canet stated that many of the schools facilities could not be used by the public during the day due to Safe Guarding Children policies currently in place.

108 SUMMER PLAY PROVISION

A report was received regarding Summer Play Provision for 2014.

It was noted that some areas were less supported than others.

Cllr Piper stated he would be happy to do a leaflet drop in Julian's Meadow next year to help increase numbers.

109 OUTDOOR PLAY EQUIPMENT

A report regarding possible sites for new play equipment was received.

It was stated that the sites were suggestions only and further research would need to be carried out.

Officers were thanked for their research so far.

RESOLVED to allow the Officer to gain more research regarding points 1,2 and 5. It was requested that further information on these sites, with reports of where Capital and Maintenance Funding would come from be brought to the next Blue Skies meeting.

1	Vine Gardens Outside proposed cafe	£20,000	To commence feasibility for installation by Easter 2015
2	Environmental Park play area only	£60,000+	To commence feasibility research. Consider at Blue Skies event.
3	Shendon Close	£25,000	Not pursue due to Health and Safety reasons.
4	Vine Waste close to Tea Hut	£20,000	Not pursue due to 1.
5	Kippington Meadow	£20,000	To commence feasibility research

7:30 pm – Cllr Hogarth left the meeting.

110 BESPOKE BENCHES

A report regarding new Bespoke Benches was received and noted.

Cllr Canet stated that she would like to see more benches placed around the town and would provide suggested locations from the Sevenoaks District Seniors Actions Forum.

RESOLVED to purchase two new benches to be installed at the Post Office Area at a cost of £1858 from 2013/2014 Open Spaces balances.

111 PROPOSAL FOR THE VINE CAFÉ IN THE BAND PRACTICE ROOM

A report and plans were received regarding the proposal.

Concern was raised regarding timescale and funding for the project. It was suggested that a simpler design for the building and interior be considered in order for the project to progress in line with budgets.

Cllr Mrs London asked if the public wash facilities within the Vine toilets design be motion sensors to reduce the risk of vandalism.

RESOLVED to give permission to the Town Clerk to negotiate with the Vine Pavilion Committee for a commencement by December 2014 to deliver project for Easter 2015 for completion.

112 OPEN SPACES & CEMETERY MANAGER'S REPORT

A report from the Open Spaces & Cemetery Manager was received and noted.

Knole Paddock & Raleys Field

It was **RESOLVED that** a progress report from the Sevenoaks Rugby Football Club be bought to the next Open Spaces and Leisure Meeting.

It was **RESOLVED TO** offer the new 'Shockwave' equipment to other sports facilities.

South East In Bloom

A report was received from Cllr Raikes stating that Sevenoaks had won the Silver Gilt Award.

It was **RESOLVED that** suggestions for further areas to be entered into next year's competition be bought to the next Blue Sky meeting.

It was stated that large scale projects would need investment and resources.

All staff involved in this year's project were thanked for their time and effort.

RESOLVED to allow existing budget to be used to start the preparation work for a 2015 entry to South East in Bloom.

Living Landscapes Group Volunteer Gardening

Member's suggestions were received regarding further sites and it was **REQUESTED that** these be added to the next Sevenoaks Town Partnership Agenda.

Property Maintenance projects and other works:

A report of further works was received and accepted.

RESOLVED to write a letter to Kent Highways regarding the state of the road approaching Waitrose carpark.

RESOLVED to write a letter to Kent Highways regarding the No Entry signs at Hollybush Lane/ Recreation Ground.

RESOLVED to write a letter to Kent Highways regarding the parking signs and regulations outside Johnny's Little Sister, off St John's Hill.

- 113 DRAFT REVENUE ESTIMATES 2015/16 & ROLLING CAPITAL PROGRAMME
A report was received regarding draft revenue estimates and the Rolling Capital Programme.

It was suggested to review if money could be saved if some street lights were turned off during certain times of the evening.

It was stated that the backlog of work on the maintenance schedule would start to be reduced now that a Committee Clerk had been appointed.

RESOLVED that a report be bought to the next Open Spaces and Leisure Committee Meeting regarding comparison prices for allotments in other areas.

RECOMMENDED

The price increase for general charges was recommended to be forwarded to the next Finance and General Purposes Committee Meeting.

RECOMMENDED

The price increase of 2% for services for the Cemetery was recommended to be forwarded to the next Finance and General Purposes Committee Meeting.

RECOMMENDED

The price increase of 2% for sports facilities was recommended to be forwarded to the next Finance and General Purposes Committee Meeting.

- 114 CURRENT MATTERS
A report on current matters was received and noted.

- 115 PRESS RELEASE
The Committee considered news releases should be issued for the South East In Bloom Award and Bradbourne Vale Road Allotments.

RESOLVED: Under the Public Bodies (Admission of Meetings) Act 1960 to exclude the public and press for the following item by reason of the confidential nature of the business.

- 116 HEALTH & SAFETY AT THE CEMETERY
A report from the Town Clerk was received and considered.

The meeting closed at 9: 20 pm

Chairman