

Minutes of the meeting of the OPEN SPACES & LEISURE COMMITTEE held in the Council Chamber, Town Council Offices, Bradbourne Vale Road, Sevenoaks on Monday 9th March 2015 at 7pm

Present:

Committee Members

Cllr S Arnold	Present	Cllr Mrs M London – Vice Chairman	Present
Cllr C L L Baker	Apologies	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:

Linda Larter, Town Clerk
Bonnie Tarling, Committee Clerk
Nicholas Cave, Open Spaces and Cemetery Manager
Public 1

414 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].

415 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None received.

416 MINUTES

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting of the Open Spaces & Leisure Committee held on Monday 15th December 2014 be received and signed.

417 STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS

The statement of accounts from January 2015 were received and noted.

Discussions took place enquiring why the skate park maintenance had been so expensive. It was noted that this was due to age, weather and usage and there had been an under spend for the past two years. It was also noted that graffiti was not an issue.

It was stated that the cost of the alarm system at Knole Paddock was a new spend previously agreed and therefore was not in the original budget.

418 OPEN SPACES AND CEMETERY MANAGER'S REPORT

Staff:

An update was received from the Open Spaces Manager. Congratulations were given to staff that had passed their recent Tractor driving qualification.

Knole Paddock:

It was noted that there had been less cancellations at Knole Paddock and that there was now better communication between the Sevenoaks Rugby Football Club and Sevenoaks Town Council. It was hoped that the new over flow car park would be completed by the following week. The parking area would be fenced off to prevent people walking or parking on the new surface until the grass had established. It was anticipated that the new parking area would be in use by May/June 2015.

Equipment:

It was stated that the new Tractor was working well and current equipment could be used with the new equipment. The Tractor had been fitted with a tracker detector for extra security.

Litter Bins at Littlewood:

A report regarding Litter Bins at Littlewood was received. It was noted that the Greatness Resident Association had not offered to contribute any funding towards the costs of installing new litter bins.

It was stated that the cost per litter bin would be approximately £500. It was noted that Sevenoaks Town Council empty litter bins and were currently near capacity for current collection bin size. Therefore any extra bins provided would be likely to add an additional £800 more per year more in collection costs.

A discussion took place stating that there was not a current budget for more litter bins and felt the Town Council should not be providing extra litter bins at the present time.

It was noted that to install the amount of litter bins as per Greatness Resident Association report the cost would be approximately £4,000. There was a general concern regarding resources and the knock on effect to other resources in the area. It was stated that the life expectancy of litter bins was currently around 10 years.

It was felt that the report received was more anticipation of issues in the future rather than present issues.

The Open Spaces Manager stated that in his opinion position No. 2 on the map was a dangerous area for rubbish collection, position No.4 was satisfactory and position No.6 was not needed.

It was **RESOLVED** that the issue be reviewed once the new schools in the area were built, to monitor the situation and reserve judgement at the present time.

419 VINE PAVILION DISABLED RAMP

An update was received from the Town Clerk. The estimated cost of the project would be £50,000 and funding would be sought to cover this.

A query was raised as to whether there would be any contribution from the Vine Cricket Club towards costs. None had been offered.

RESOLVED That the plans continue provided that external funding was obtained.

420 FOOD FAIR

A report regarding the Food Fair at the Vine Gardens was received and noted.

421 SOUTH EAST IN BLOOM COMPETITION 2015

A report was received and noted. It was stated that the area for judging would be the same as 2014.

422 PROPOSAL FOR THE VINE CAFÉ IN THE BAND PRACTICE ROOM

A report was received and noted. It was stated that the work was currently one month behind plan due to various issues. It was noted that a premises licence was needed in order to sell food and drink at the new café.

423 SEVENOAKS TOWN SPORT STRATEGY

The minutes from the meeting held on 13th January were received and noted.

424 NEW PLAY AREA AT ENVIRONMENTAL PARK

A report was received and noted.

It was requested that areas of shade be provided within the new play area and hoped the new facility would be better maintained than by previous operators.

It was noted that Sevenoaks Town Council would be responsible for the play area only and the surrounding area would remain under Knole Estate's responsibility.

425 CURRENT MATTERS

A report was received and noted.

426 PRESS RELEASE

The new play area at the Environmental Park was suggested as a press release item.

At a later date a press release on the drainage work at Knole Paddock.

With no further issues to discuss the Chairman closed the meeting at 8:05pm

Chairman