

Present:

Committee Members

Cllr N J Busvine OBE – Vice Chairman	Present	Cllr O Schneider	Present
Cllr J M Canet	Present	Cllr P E Towell	Present
Cllr A Eyre - Chairman	Present	Cllr E Waite	Present
Cllr R J Parry	Apologies	Cllr Mrs P C Walshe	Present
Cllr S G Raikes	Present		

In Attendance:

Cllr Robert Piper
Linda Larter, Town Clerk
Bonnie Tarling, Committee Clerk
Nicholas Cave, Open Spaces and Cemetery Manager
Public 2

At the start of the meeting Mr & Mrs Hilson from the Greatness Residents Association (GRA) talked about the issues at Mill Pond. It was stated that the GRA had managed to get a large group of people together to help maintain the area thus helping to keep the annual maintenance charges to a minimum. It was felt that in GRA's opinion that the health and safety issue of the silt traps at the area were low risk. It was noted that GRA would continue to help with maintenance of the area for the foreseeable future. GRA's recommendation was for Sevenoaks Town Council to take over ownership of Mill Pond from Sevenoaks District Council.

125 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].

126 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None received.

127 MINUTES

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting of the Open Spaces & Leisure Committee held on Monday 9th March 2015 be received and signed as a true record.

128 STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS

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

Nicholas Cave confirmed that the holes to the surface of the Skate Park would be dealt with this week. It was noted that Graffiti removal costs were slightly increased due to a professional company having been employed to remove graffiti from the St John's toilets.

Dog bins and litter bins cost were slightly higher due to Sevenoaks District Council checking its accounts and more dog bins had been installed.

129 OPEN SPACES AND CEMETERY MANAGER'S REPORT

Staff:

An update was received from the Open Spaces Manager.

Knole Paddock:

Drainage work had started on the rugby pitch. The cricket square was currently being repositioned to allow the switching of rugby pitch one and two. It was noted that the cost for the projects would be covered by existing maintenance budgets.

Pointoise Close Open Space:

A report was received regarding a request from a member of the public to open the area at the bottom of the sand pit to allow access for a sandpit style play area.

Nicholas Cave stated that if the area at the bottom was opened up to make into a sand pit it would require daily checking and fencing therefore creating higher maintenance costs.

RESOLVED To actively discourage people from using the area and to allow vegetation to continue to grow.

Bat & Ball Station:

A report was received regarding recent work at the Bat & Ball Station. It was mentioned that positive feedback about the improvements had been received.

Litter bins:

A report was received regarding the lack of litter bins between Britains Common and Sevenoaks Station.

RESOLVED The Town Clerk to write to Sevenoaks District Council to request the installation of further litter bins in the area between Britains Common and the Station.

Littlewood:

It was noted that work on the trees at Littlewood would start this Winter with identified health and safety concerns being addressed first.

130 GREATNESS PARK

A report regarding plans for Greatness Recreation Ground were received and noted. Pre-planning discussion had taken place with full planning application being submitted shortly.

8.10pm Cllr Towell left the meeting.

RESOLVED To recommend to the Finance & General Purpose Committee a grant of £10,000 match funding for the project from the Sport Strategy Funds. In addition the project to be considered by the Community Infrastructure Committee.

131 MILL POND

A report was received regarding the proposal of Sevenoaks Town Council acquiring the ownership and responsibility of Mill Pond from Sevenoaks District Council. It was noted that a risk assessment and details of a silt trap cover had been requested from Sevenoaks District Council and not received to date.

It was noted that the impending Estate visit for Councillors with the Open Spaces Manager would include a visit to Mill Pond.

It was mentioned that there would be a small increase to the Town Council's Public Liability insurance costs and an increase of £5,000 revenue costs per annum.

RESOLVED Sevenoaks Town Council do not take over ownership, maintenance and liability for Mill Pond taking into account professional health and safety advice until such time as a silt cover and the District Council's risk assessment for the facility are provided.

132 SOUTH EAST IN BLOOM COMPETITION 2015

A verbal report was received from the Town Clerk. The Awards Ceremony would take place on Friday 11th September at Brighton & Hove Albion Football Club. It was noted that the brochure produced this year would be used to encourage more businesses to take part and sponsor the 2016 entry.

RESOLVED To record the Committee's gratitude to everyone involved in the 2015 entry.

133 VINE CAFÉ PROGRESS REPORT

A report was received and noted. Current issues with Environmental Health and Building Control were ongoing.

134 NEW PLAY AREA AT ENVIRONMENTAL PARK

A report was received and noted. A display of the tender plans were available to view on the evening. A good response to the public consultation had been received with lots of positive feedback.

RESOLVED To continue with the lease and plans for the Environmental Park providing 50% match funding was obtained.

135 VINE TOILETS

A report was received and noted.

RESOLVED To recommend to Finance & General Purpose Committee that the refurbishment of the Vine Toilets commence as soon as possible with a budget up to £25,074 less £9,685 KCC grant.

136 VINE PAVILION

A report was received and noted. A structural survey of the building would take place on Tuesday 18th August at a cost of £850.00

137 SPORT STRATEGY

A copy of the Sport Strategy Document was received previously and noted.

RESOLVED i) To note and adopt the Sevenoaks Sport Strategy noting the caveats on the recommendations. ii) To forward directly a copy of the document to Cllr Dickens and Cllr Fleming at Sevenoaks District Council.

9.05 pm Cllr Mrs Walshe left the meeting.

138 RAYLEYS USER GROUP

The minutes from the meeting held on 28th May 2015 were received and noted.

139 ROADSIDE ADVERTISING

A report was received and noted. It was noted that this was an issue that divided the community with some people liking the advertising and some not. Sevenoaks Town Council currently manage the roadside advertising and charged a nominal fee to voluntary organisations wishing to advertise their events.

RESOLVED To note the Town Council's Terms and Conditions for the provision of Roadside Advertising.

140 HEALTH AND SAFETY REQUIREMENTS – CEMETERY MEMORIAL INSPECTIONS

A report was received and noted. It was stated that the cost for the memorial inspections would be used from current budget savings. It was noted that the inspections provided cover for a 5 year period.

RESOLVED Unanimously to appoint an external contractor (A) to the value of up to £7,130 to carry out the health and safety inspections.

141 CURRENT MATTERS

A report was received and noted.

142 THE SEVEN OAKS, TONBRIDGE ROAD

A report was received and noted.

RESOLVED To agree to access across the common subject to the Town Clerk researching the most cost effective way to a reasonable offer for the permission.

142 PRESS RELEASE

RESOLVED Not to issue a press release.

With no further issues to discuss the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.35pm

Chairman