

Sevenoaks Town Council
Minutes of the Open Spaces & Leisure Committee held on 16th November 2015
In the Council Chamber commencing at 7.00 p.m.

Committee Members Present

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

In Attendance: Town Clerk, Cllr R Hogarth, Cllr R Piper, Cllr T Clayton, Committee Clerk and Open Spaces Manager. One member of the public present.

Public Question Time

Dr Rindy Bakker, Chairman of the Sevenoaks Allotment Holders Association (SAHA) addressed the Committee as a member of the public stated their concerns over the draft lease for the Quakers Hall Allotment site. Concern was raised over the twelve month break clause and the lack of discussions between the Town Council and SAHA.

270 Requests for Dispensations

No Requests for Dispensations had been received from Members to enable participation in discussions on items on the agenda where the Member has a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest (s 31 & 33 Localism Act 2011).

271 Declaration of Interest

Cllr Canet & Cllr Waite referred to their Declaration of Interest as a member of SAHA.

273 Minutes of the Meeting held on 21st September 2015

RESOLVED: that the Minutes of the meeting of the Open Spaces & Leisure Committee held on 21st September 2015 be received and signed as a true record.

With the Committees agreement the Chairman moved the agenda item relating to the Quaker Hall Allotment Lease to the beginning of the meeting.

274 Quaker Hall Allotment Lease

A copy of the draft lease was received. Concerns were raised over the twelve month break clause, increase in admin needed to produce quarterly report to the Town Council from SAHA and how the plots would be inspected.

It was noted that the draft lease had been taken from the National Allotment Society's recommended lease for Council's to allotment associations and had some local adaptations made in particular to provide preferential lettings to local residents.

RESOLVED: To agree the lease for Quakers Hall Allotments to the Sevenoaks Allotment Holders Association. 5 Votes For and 3 Votes Against.

7.35pm – Cllr T Clayton and Cllr R Hogarth left the meeting.

275 Statement of Accounts to 30th September 2015

RESOLVED: to note the statement of accounts to 30th September 2015.

276 Allotment Price Increase

A report was received regarding price increases for Bradbourne Vale Road Allotment site.

RESOLVED: to charge new non-resident plot holders double the current allotment fee. Outstanding financial matters to be reported as required.

277 South & South East in Bloom

The Committee received and considered an Action Plan for the 2016 entry. Thanks were given by the Committee to the Town Clerk on a well thought out and informative plan.

RESOLVED: to carry out all actions as set out in the Action Plan for the 2016 entry.

278 Monthly Sunday Farmers Market on the Vine Gardens

A report was received and noted.

RESOLVED: To move ahead with the project in order to host the first market on 24th April 2016.

279 Greatness Recreation Ground Future Projects

A report was received regarding future projects at Greatness Recreation Ground.

Cllr Canet expressed an interest in being involved with future projects.

It was requested that a copy of the pre-planning application advice be made available to the Committee.

A verbal report of a member of the public using a quadbike at Greatness Recreation Ground was received. The Committee requested that the Committee Clerk carry out research to see if there is any land in the area where quadbikes can be ridden legally with findings being brought back to the next committee meeting.

RESOLVED: That the committee note and endorse the actions within the report.

280 Open Spaces & Cemetery Manager's Report

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

I. Buckhurst Lane Play Area

It was noted that more clearing work would be carried out shortly at the Buckhurst Lane Play Area. A further volunteer day would be arranged once a suitable area was identified.

Issues regarding the state of repair of the Knole Paddock Pavilion were discussed. It was requested that a maintenance report be brought to the next Open Spaces Committee Meeting regarding maintenance needed on all Town Council buildings. Cllr Schneider agreed to help consult on this report.

II. War Memorial

Two new bell shaped bollards to be installed at either end of the area to discourage turning and damage to the grass.

III. Skatepark

Repair would soon be carried out regarding the plywood and surfacing at the Skatepark. Quotes for the work would be sought shortly.

IV. Outdoor Gym

Quotes were currently being sought to install artificial grass under the outdoor gym equipment.

RESOLVED: Future Open Spaces & Leisure Committee agenda items to include: Property Maintenance & Resources

281 Buckhurst Lane Play Area

A verbal updated was received from the Town Clerk. Current balance so far for the project was £86,600. Further funding would need to be sought before the installation of equipment could begin.

282 Vine Pavilion Structural Report

The recently carried out structural report for the Vine Pavilion had been circulated previously and was agreed. Work taking place on the Vine Toilet project would take in to account some repairs needed to the pavilion building.

RESOLVED: A specification be prepared and quotations for repairs obtained, noting that a robust maintenance programme would be needed for the refurbishment of the building.

283 Current Matters

| **RESOLVED:** To note the report relating to current matters.

284 Press Release

| **RESOLVED:** To issue a press release relating to the lease for Quaker Hall Allotments site.

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 8.30 p.m.

Chairman

Dated