

Minutes of the meeting of the OPEN SPACES & LEISURE COMMITTEE held in the Council Chamber, Town Council Offices, Bradbourne Vale Road, Sevenoaks on Monday 16 December 2013 at 8.55pm

Present:

Committee Members

Cllr S L Arnold	Present	Cllr Mrs M A London	Present
Cllr C L L Baker	Present	Cllr R J Parry	Present
Cllr J M Canet	Present	Cllr S G Raikes	Present
Cllr A Eyre - Chairman	Present	Vice Chairman - Cllr P E Towell	Present
Cllr R M C Hogarth [ex-officio]	Present	Cllr Mrs P C Walshe	Present arr 7.04

Also present:

Cllr G R S Clack
Cllr A S Clayton
Cllr R L Piper

Town Clerk
Deputy Town Clerk
Open Spaces Manager

25 Members of the Public

PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

A representative of the Sevenoaks Allotment Holders Society objected strongly to the proposal to use a small area [containing 4 plots] of the Quakers Hall Allotments for parking, stated that it was contrary to the principle of the Council for Sevenoaks to be the Best Market Town in Kent and requested details of the public consultation. He was concerned over the resultant delay to the issuing of a new lease. He referred the letter submitted from SAHA stating that a five year lease would not be compatible with the objective of an allotment site. The Association would be keen to work with the Council concerning the management of the Bradbourne Vale Road Allotments and to identify additional allotment sites.

A plot holder from SAHA questioned the principle of converting leisure land to car parking.

The Chairman responded that these issues would be covered in the public consultation and reiterated that the Town Council has a policy to look at the whole requirements of the town. Also that the term of lease had been discussed in the previous Finance & General Purposes Committee.

314 REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATIONS

There were no requests from Members to enable participation in discussion on items on the agenda in which the Member has a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest. [S 31 & 33 Localism Act 2011 refers].

315 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr J M Canet declared a Non Pecuniary Interest in allotments.
Cllr Mrs P C Walshe declared a Non Pecuniary Interest in St Johns Primary School

316 MINUTES

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting of the Open Spaces & Leisure Committee held on 21 October 2013 previously approved at Council on 2 December 2013 be received and signed

317 STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS

It was **RESOLVED** that the Statement of Accounts from April 2013 to 31 October 2013 be received and adopted

318 QUAKERS HALL ALLOTMENTS

The Committee received and considered the report circulated with the agenda concerning the Sevenoaks Allotment Holders' Association Lease at Quakers Hall Allotments. It was also noted that points raised by the Allotment Association had been circulated to Councillors prior to the meeting. After a comprehensive debate

It was **RESOLVED** that

- i. Consultation be undertaken with the public (and adjacent school), together with Kent County Council and Sevenoaks District Council, regarding the proposal of changing a small area of allotment land [4 plots] to car parking to assist St Johns School and the wider community with parking issues
- ii. Sevenoaks Town Council follows through the due legal process to renew the lease to Sevenoaks Allotment Holders Association for a period of 10 years, subject to a sound business plan, landlord's break clause and public consultation, and subject to the removal of one area [identified on map circulated with agenda] to provide car parking for local residents and the nearby school if the proposal is supported by the public consultation [i above refers]
- iii. The Town Council reviews the viability of Sevenoaks Allotment Holders Association managing the Bradbourne Vale Road Allotments on behalf of Sevenoaks Town Council.
- iv. The Town Council reviews the availability of additional land in Sevenoaks for more allotments

319 SEVENOAKS RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB

The Committee received and considered Town Clerk's report. Members noted that a positive and professional working relationship has been established between the Town Council and the Club. Lease negotiations are due to commence in approximately 5½ year's time and in the interim

It was **RESOLVED** that

The Sports Strategy be developed with the participation of the Rugby Club and other clubs and organisations to consider sporting facilities and opportunities for joint working and potential changes to facilities across the town prior to the renewal of lease negotiations

320 SEVENOAKS LAWN TENNIS CLUB

The consideration of the rent review due in March 2014 was deferred.

321 COMMONWEALTH WAR GRAVES COMMISSION

It was **RESOLVED** that the request from the Commonwealth War Graves Commission concerning signage at entrance to Greatness Park Cemetery be agreed.

322 OPEN SPACES & CEMETERY MANAGER'S REPORT

The Committee received the Open Spaces & Cemetery Manager's report.

Staff

First aid training was noted

Knole Paddock & Raleys Field

It was noted that all pitches and most of the training areas on the two fields had received four passes with the aerating machine and that there had been heavy wear of the ground during the prolonged wet period in late October and November.

The Committee noted the optimum figures as quoted by Sport England for natural turf are as follows (Ref: Natural Turf for Sport 2000 2nd Edition 2011)

	Drainage Status	Adult Use	Junior U 15
Knole Paddock	Un drained	< 2 Hrs	+ 50%
Raleys Field	Un drained	< 2 Hrs	+50%
Raleys Football	Pipe Drained	2-3 Hrs	+50%

It was **RESOLVED** that

A report be circulated to Councillors concerning the maintenance costs of pitches over the past five years

Tour of Sevenoaks Common

It was **AGREED** that a tour of Sevenoaks Common take place on Saturday 18 January starting at 10.00am

Greatness Skatepark

Repairs using galvanised steel as a trial were noted

323 TOWN WARDEN'S REPORT

The Committee received and noted the Town Warden's report

324 CURRENT MATTERS

The Committee received and noted the list of current matters

325 PRESS RELEASE

The Committee considered the signage requested by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission would be appropriate for a press release

The meeting closed at 9.55pm

Chairman

