

Minutes of the meeting of the OPEN SPACES & LEISURE COMMITTEE held in the Council Chamber, Town Council Offices, Bradbourne Vale Road, Sevenoaks on Monday 14 July 2014 at 7.00pm

Present:

Committee Members

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

Also present:

Town Clerk
Committee Clerk
Open Spaces Manager

3 Members of the Public

PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

Dr Geoff Brown raised several points from his personal perspective concerning Quakers Hall Allotment Site and the renewal of the Lease. Dr Geoff Brown from SAHA requested a meeting with the committee before any new arrangements are progressed relating to potential developments of management of Bradbourne Vale Road Allotment site. It was noted that the comments received previously regarding a possible orchard on the site were raised by a plot holder and not a member of SAHA.

The Chairman apologised for any misunderstanding regarding the points raised at the last meeting in relation to the possibility of an orchard at the Quakers Hall site.

The following questions were raised from Jason King regarding Quakers Hall Allotment site.

1. Would the council make available a copy of the original document relating to the land?
2. When did Sevenoaks Town Council become SAHA Landlord and why?
3. Why is there an allotment lease when the land has already been given to the people?

90 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].

91 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr J M Canet declared a Pecuniary interest in allotments.

Cllr Mrs M A London declared a Pecuniary interest in allotments.

Cllr R J Parry read advice from NALC regarding personal interest for Councillors who were allotments holders. The Chairman reminded Councillors that declarations of interest were for Councillors individually to consider.

92 MINUTES

It was **RESOLVED that** the minutes of the meeting of the Open Spaces & Leisure Committee held on 10 March 2014 be received and signed.

Cllr Piper raised a query as to why the Food Fair did not happen. The Town Clerk commended that this was due to previous organisers not completing arrangement and resource issues and stated this event may still happen later in the year but no date had been set as of yet.

The Chairman asked that everyone please attend and support the Bands on the Vine on Thursdays and Sundays.

93 STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS

It was noted that the Statement of Accounts for April 2014 were preliminary and further adjustments were still to be made due to a change of Responsible Finance Officer.

Cllr R J Parry commented on how little was spent on clearing graffiti and that this reflected well on the people of the area.

The Chairman thanked the Town Clerk and other office staff for their help with regards to keeping the area clean and graffiti to a minimum.

Cllr J M Canet stated that there was a shortage of dog litter bins and emptying in the Bradbourne Lakes area and requested a letter be sent to the Sevenoaks District Council to request this be done.

It was **RESOLVED that** a letter would be sent to Sevenoaks District Council regarding the clearing of dog litter bins.

94 QUAKERS HALL ALLOTMENTS – RENEWAL OF LEASE

Cllr R J Parry proposed a 5 Year Lease with a 1 Year Rolling Break Clause, seconded by Cllr P Towell.

It was noted that an email from the Chairman of SAHA had been received that day and forwarded to all Councillors. The email provided comments and clarification on the agenda report.

The Chairman requested that the Minutes record the incorrect assumption of the Town Council that the member of the public who addressed the Finance & General Purposes Committee on 16th June 2014 was a member of SAHA.

RESOLVED: To recommend to the Finance & General Purposes Committee that the renewal of the Quaker Hall Allotment Lease to SAHA be for term of 5 Years followed by a 1 Year Rolling.

The proposal was put to the vote and carried with 4 in favour and 1 against. It was noted that Cllr Canet and Cllr London did not vote.

95 RAYLEYS USER GROUP

Notes of the Rayleys User Group meeting held on 2nd July 2014 were discussed. With comment raised on the cost involved in creating a new 3G pitch in the area. It was noted that this was still an ongoing point and was included in the Sports Strategy for further consultation.

RESOLVED: To accept the Notes of the Meeting

96 SEVENOAKS SPORTS STRATEGY

Cllr J M Canet expressed views regarding a need for involving more local schools.

Cllr Piper requested that a letter be sent to any commercial Sports Organisations to invite them to future Sports Strategy Meetings.

RESOLVED: To note that the next meeting of the Sports Strategy group would take place on 16th July 2014.

Cllr J M Canet left the meeting

97 OPEN SPACES & CEMETERY MANAGERS REPORT

A report was circulated with the agenda and discussed.

97.1 Staff – It was noted we are now fully staffed with a new apprentice.

97.2 It was noted that the South East In Bloom Judging arrangements went well and the Chairman thanked all those involved in the build up to this event including volunteers and Kent County Council.

97.3 It was noted that the result regarding the Heritage Lottery Fund Bid for Sevenoaks Green and Common would not be announced until September/October 2014. It was expected that the Project Development Officer would report directly to Sevenoaks District Council and Kent Wildlife.

97.4 Cllr R Hogarth thanked everyone involved in the Mayors Walk and hoped that it would become an annual event. Thanks were given to the Open Spaces & Cemetery Manager and the Deputy Town Clerk for organising it so successfully.

97.5 The break in at Knole Paddock was discussed and it was noted that a new alarm system would need to be put in place. The Chairman asked the Committee to share information about other break ins they have had and requested everyone to be more vigilant. Possible extra security measures were discussed and costing for these would need to be considered before the issue could be resolved. It was noted that the break in was now being reviewed by the Police.

97.6 Woodland Management Plan – the Open Spaces Manager stated that a copy of the plan was available on request. A brief over view of the Woodland Plan was given and it was noted that this was still an ongoing process. It was noted that the current problem with Japanese Knotweed and Laurel in the area were currently under control and being monitored.

98 CENTENARY FIELDS

A report was reviewed and noted.

99 POST OFFICE HIGHWAY AREA

Funding for the project had been applied for 10 new benches to be commissioned to be placed in and around the town and a result of this should be available next week. It was noted that the area looked much better since the new improvements of planting had been made.

100 ADDITIONAL PLAY EQUIPMENT

Cllr Piper requested more play equipment be installed in Kippington. A suggestion of Kippington Meadow as a possible site was made and supported by Cllr R Parry. It was noted that a covenant on the area of Kippington Meadow may pose an issue with this request.

An outdoor gym was suggested at Julians Meadow.

RESOLVED: A report on possible spaces and supporting documents be supplied at the next Open Spaces & Leisure Committee Meeting.

101 CURRENT MATTERS

101.1 It was noted that a wider security review in the area was needed after the break in at the Cemetery and Knole Paddock.

102 PRESS RELEASE

The Committee considered news releases should be issued concerning requesting ideas for the site location for new play equipment and new allotments sites in Sevenoaks.

The meeting closed at 8.25 pm

Chairman