

EXCERPT FROM

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE RECREATION, LEISURE & OPEN SPACES COMMITTEE

Held on Wednesday 2 July 2008 at 7.00pm

**OS/5011
FOLLY FARM**

Members agreed that, following a site visit to Folly Farm earlier in the day, further information would be required prior to a decision being taken on the future management of the woodland. As suggested by the Council's arboriculture adviser, it was agreed that a full assessment should be carried out to identify possible uses of the site, including an estimate of the costs associated with future maintenance and any improvement works recommended. This assessment should include maintenance of the roads adjoining the site, which were also in the Council's ownership. It should also include details of how the Council's responsibilities under Health and Safety legislation could be met and liabilities reduced. It was suggested that there may be grants available to carry out some of the work.

The Town Clerk advised Members that they would need to consider the cost to Ringwood ratepayers, bearing in mind that the woodland was not within the parish boundary. He added that the area was protected and would remain as a wooded area available for use by residents, regardless of who owned the land.

RECOMMENDED TO POLICY & FINANCE COMMITTEE:

That funding be made available for a full assessment of land at Folly Farm to be carried out in order to determine how the woodland could be managed in the future, prior to the Recreation, Leisure & Open Spaces Committee giving further consideration to the future of the site.