

OPEN SESSION: There were 2 members of public present, who wished to speak.

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

Held on Wednesday 1st December 2004 at 7.15 pm

PRESENT: Cllr N W Light (Chairman)
Cllr N J Chard
Cllr Mrs B A Charlton (for part of the meeting)
Cllr L C Ford
Cllr M H Thierry

IN ATTENDANCE: Cllr N R G Clarke
Terry Simpson, Town Clerk
Lyn Wickens, P A to the Town Clerk

OS/4580 ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs D E Cracknell, Cllr N Wood, Mrs B J Wright and S C Wright.

OS/4581 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr M H Thierry declared an interest in Agenda item 4, as he was Portfolio Holder for the Environment at the District Council and had attended a meeting and voted when the use of Developers' Contributions for part of the cost of the new equipment for the play park had been discussed. Cllr Ford also declared an interest in this item as she had attended the same meeting, but had not voted. The play park was also in her ward. Cllr Ford declared an interest in Agenda item 5, as she was a member of the friends of Ringwood Health Centre.

OS/4582 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 3rd November 2004, having been circulated, be approved and signed as a correct record.

OS/4583 NORTHFIELD PLAY AREA

Cllr Light reported on a very productive meeting held recently, when mothers with pre-school children had chosen the equipment and supplier they felt would be most suitable for the play park. He was also pleased to report that, subject to further negotiations with the chosen supplier, Wicksteed Leisure, the work to refurbish the play park and install the new equipment could be completed with an approximate timescale of 8 weeks from date of order, excluding public holidays. £20,000 of the cost of the scheme had been met from Developers' Contributions and £8,000 from Town Council funds.

Cllr Thierry said that thanks were due to Councillors and Town Council staff who had brought this scheme together and he felt that a press release should be issued informing the public of the new facility. The Town Clerk advised that there would be an official "opening ceremony" in due course.

RESOLVED: that the Clerk continue negotiations with the preferred supplier of play equipment for the Northfield Play Area to ensure the refurbished play area is provided in

accordance with the specification and prices reported to the meeting and brought into use as soon as possible.

**OS/4584
CARVERS RECREATION GROUND**

The Town Clerk reported that the Agreement with Med Centres had now been signed and trial bore holes had been drilled. Construction of the temporary health centre would commence in the next couple of week. Ahead of this, a temporary access off Southampton Road, next to the play area, would need to be made for public access to Carvers. The Clerk also reported that the topsoil removed during the construction would be retained on site in the form of a bund which would partially screen the construction works, and which would be put back when the temporary health centre is removed.

A Ground Breaking Ceremony had been arranged on Tuesday 7th December at 12 noon at which it was hoped the press would attend to publicise the temporary move of the health centre to Carvers.

RESOLVED: that the Clerk's report be noted and the arrangements for the temporary access to Carvers and retention of topsoil on the site be approved.

**OS/4585
ACCESS ROAD ACROSS THE BICKERLEY**

The Clerk reported to members that he had not yet received a reply from NALC advising whether or not the Town Council could tow illegally parked vehicles from the access roads across the Bickerley. He had taken legal advice with regard to narrowing the access roads and had been informed that this could not be done without the agreement of the residents of the Old Mill House Flats whose responsibility it was to maintain the surface of the track.

The Clerk advised that the Town Council is responsible for keeping the tracks clear of vehicles; the whole area was Village Green and vehicles were not entitled to park on any of it.

Cllr Thierry suggested that a leaflet be prepared for distribution to local residents and the press, advising that stringent and direct action would be taken to stop vehicles parking on the Village Green, including enforced removal or clamping of vehicles, once powers were in place.

RECOMMENDED:

(i) that, subject to further advice from NALC, the Town Council takes immediate and effective action in respect of vehicles illegally parked on the access roads in breach of the current regulations in relation to the Village Green, and

(ii) that the Town Clerk be authorised to take the appropriate action to achieve this aim.

Cllr Mrs B Charlton joined the meeting at 7.40 pm.

**OS/4586
RINGWOOD FLOOD DEFENCE SCHEME**

With the permission of the Chairman, Cllr Clarke reported on a recent meeting with the Environment Agency and Halcrow to discuss further details of the project prior to the submission of a planning application in December. (See annex 'A' to these Minutes). As a result of that meeting, the Council had agreed the location of the compound, but there were other issues of detail for consideration by the Committee.

The Clerk suggested that works in kind for permitting the use of Town Council land could be the installation of concrete bollards around the edge of The Bickerley to deter anyone from gaining illegal access to the Village Green with vehicles.

With regard to the use of the existing track across The Bickerley from the pumping station, the Clerk suggested that this should temporarily be made up which would mean that the grass would eventually grow back through it.

The Environment Agency had asked to use the main track to Old Mill House flats, with residents using the second track to Riverside, for safety reasons. The Environment Agency would need to agree this with the Residents of Old Mill House flats.

Standing Orders were suspended to allow Mr Roger Beeson, Chairman of the Residents Association, Old Mill House flats, to speak.

Mr Beeson reported that he and members of the Residents Association had already met with the Environment Agency and were waiting to hear further from them.

Standing Orders were reinstated.

RESOLVED:

(1) that negotiations with the Environment Agency for use of part of the Village Green as a compound should seek to achieve replacement of the wooden dragons teeth with fixed concrete bollards of similar size

(2) that the Environment Agency be authorised to use the existing track across The Bickerley from the pumping station, subject to this being made up in a temporary manner

(3) that no objection be raised to the Old Mill House Flats Residents Association agreeing to the closure of the access track to Old Mill House flats, for safety reasons, during the period when the compound is in situ

(4) that the Ringwood Flood Defence Scheme should be the focus of the Annual Assembly in May 2005

(5) that the Environment Agency be provided with a list of events to take place on The Bickerley in 2005

OS/4587

FEES AND CHARGES FOR 2005/2006

Members reviewed the Council's current fees and charges, as follows:

(i) Allotments

The Town Clerk had recommended an increase of approximately 2.5% for all full plots on the Southampton Road and Hightown Road allotment sites. No increase was proposed for half plots on these sites. However, slightly higher increases were proposed for the Upper Kingston allotments in order to achieve parity of fees over all sites within three years.

Cllr Chard proposed that:

(a) the fees for half plots at Southampton Road and Hightown Road be increased from £16 to £17 and

(b) that the half plots at Upper Kingston be increased from £14 to £16 for the year 2005/06 and then brought into line with the other two sites in the following year. This proposal was supported by Cllr Thierry.

RESOLVED (i) : that the fees for allotments for 2005/2006 be as follows:

SITE		2005-2006
Southampton Road	Full Plot	£27
	Half Plot	£17
Hightown Road	Full Plot	£27
	Half Plot	£17
Upper Kingston	Full Plot	£25
	Half Plot	£16

(ii) Sports Facilities:

The Town Clerk had recommended a general increase of approximately 5%.

Cllr Chard proposed an increase in the fees for senior football from £40 to £44 per match and an increase for junior football from £24 to £27 per match. However, these proposals were not supported.

RESOLVED (ii): that the fees for sports facilities for 2005/2006, Casual and Block Booked, be as the attached Annex 'B' (1 and 2) to these Minutes.

(iii) Cemetery Fees – Interment and Memorial:

The Town Clerk had recommended a general increase of approximately 2.5%. He also reported that all Undertakers using the Town Council's cemetery had been advised that the NAMM Health & Safety arrangements for digging graves must be strictly followed at all times.

After discussion, it was

RESOLVED (iii): that the Cemetery fees for interments and memorials for 2005/2006, be as the attached Annex 'C' (1 and 2) to these Minutes.

OS/4588

BUDGET 2005/2006

(1) Members considered the Expenditure Report in respect of the Budget Provision for 2004/005 (Annex 'D') to these minutes. It was agreed that the budget for repairs to the former mortuary be increased to £3,000.

(2) The Revised Budget 2004/005 and Original Budget 2005/006 for the Recreation, Leisure & Open Spaces Committee was carefully considered. (Annex 'E').

(3) Members considered the Committee's further Proposals for 2005/006 ((Annex 'F') and prioritised the items as high, medium or low.

Discussion took place regarding item 4 on the list, repainting the bridge and railings at Jubilee Gardens. *Cllr Thierry declared a personal interest as a member of Ringwood Rotary Club.* Cllr Light explained that any repainting of the bridge would necessitate stringent health & safety measures in order to avoid the Millstream becoming contaminated. Concern was expressed that the Town Council has only an informal arrangement with the County Council

for maintenance of the Gardens. However, the Gardens were an important open space in the town and the work was required in order to maintain the appearance of the area.

(1) RESOLVED: that the Expenditure Report in respect of the Budget Provision for 2004/2005 (Annex 'D') be noted and the budget repairs to the former mortuary be increased to £3,000 and

RECOMMENDED TO POLICY & FINANCE COMMITTEE: that the expenditure of £240 per site to meet the cost of a tree audit and risk assessment be approved for immediate action and that the Town Clerk be authorised to appoint Barrell Treecare for this work.

(2) RECOMMENDED TO POLICY & FINANCE COMMITTEE: that the Revised Budget 2004/005 and Original Base Budget 2005/006 for the Recreation, Leisure & Open Spaces Committee be approved.

(3) RESOLVED: that in view of the expenditure already incurred and the proposals for repainting the bridge and railings, County Councillor John Waddington be requested to assist the Council in having the ownership of the Gardens transferred to them at no further cost and

RECOMMENDED TO POLICY & FINANCE COMMITTEE: that the Committee's further prioritised Budget Proposals for 2005/006 (Annex 'F'), be accepted.

As the length of the meeting had now exceeded two hours the Chairman asked members if they wished to continue or reconvene the next evening.

RESOLVED: members resolved to continue the meeting.

OS/4589

URGENT BUSINESS

(1) Security marking of equipment: The Clerk requested the Committee's approval to security mark items of Town Council equipment, such as strimmers, tools etc.

RESOLVED: that the Town Clerk security mark any items of Town Council equipment as he deems necessary.

(2) Former Nags Head Site: The Town Clerk reported that he had received a request from residents who wished to plant trees and hedging on the Town Council's land at the above site. The residents had indicated that they would meet the cost of buying, planting and maintaining the trees. Members discussed whether it was prudent to allow such planting on its land as it would be difficult to ensure the continued maintenance of the trees if the original occupants of the houses moved away.

RESOLVED: that the residents at the former Nags Head site be granted permission, in principle, to plant trees and hedging on part of the Council's land at the site, subject to professional approval of the species of tree and hedging to be planted.

(3) Public Open Space at 42 Hightown Road: The Town Clerk reported that NFDC had enquired if the Town Council would accept a freehold transfer from the Developer of this small piece of open space, together with the open space maintenance contribution of £668.

RESOLVED: that NFDC be advised that the Town Council does not wish to acquire the freehold transfer of the public open space at 42 Hightown Road.

(4) New Town Events Notice Board: The Town Clerk advised members that he had obtained a quotation for supplying and fitting a new town events notice board, to be installed facing the pavement, in the Council-maintained flowerbed at the junction of Meeting House Lane/Mansfield Road. The cost to the Council would be £140 as Ringwood Garden Club had agreed to donate £75 towards the work.

RESOLVED: that the Town Clerk proceed with the purchase and installation of a new town events notice board to be installed at the junction of Meeting House Lane/Mansfield Road at a cost to the Council of £140.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.35 pm.