

OPEN SESSION: There was one member of the public present, who did not wish to speak.

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

Held on Wednesday 2nd June 2004 at 7.30 pm

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

IN ATTENDANCE: Terry Simpson, Town Clerk
Lyn Wickens, Personal Assistant to Town Clerk

OS/4512 ABSENCE

There were none.

OS/4513 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllrs S C Wright and Mrs B J Wright declared personal but not a prejudicial interest in agenda items 4 (a) and (b) Closed Burial Ground.

OS/4514 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

RESOLVED: that the minutes of the meetings held on Wednesday 5th May 2004 and Wednesday 26th May 2004, having been circulated, be approved and signed as a correct record.

OS/4515 CLOSED BURIAL GROUND

(a) A recent inspection of the trees in the Closed Burial Ground had revealed that the restraining wires on several Irish Yews had broken, although they had been renewed approximately eighteen months ago. One Yew was beginning to overhang the A.31 and the Arboriculturist at NFDC had advised that this should be pruned. There was also a Yew obstructing a light on the footpath through the churchyard.

The Town Clerk reported that the Town Council was responsible for keeping the Closed Burial Ground tidy and safe, but no budget provision had been made for expenditure in the current financial year. Having viewed the trees at a site meeting, members discussed the extent of any work to be carried out.

RESOLVED:

(i) that the Church be advised that the Town Council did not have a budget for carrying out any additional work in the Closed Burial Ground in the current year, but that the Chairman of the Committee and the Town Clerk meet with the Church Warden during the year to discuss work to be carried out in the next financial year, and

(ii) that quotations be obtained from a private contractor and Hampshire County Council for pruning a Yew overhanging the A.31.

(b) The Town Clerk reported that it had been drawn to his attention that vehicles were using the main footpath to the front door of the Church. He reminded members that it was a private footpath and not dedicated as a highway, as indicated by a sign on the gate. The Clerk said that the footpath had been extensively repaired, and damage could be caused by overuse by vehicles.

RESOLVED: that when the Chairman of the Committee and the Town Clerk meet the Church Warden, they express the Town Council's concern regarding vehicular use of the footpath and report back to the Committee later in the year.

Cllr Mrs Charlton arrived at the meeting at 7.48 pm.

**OS/4516
JUBILEE GARDENS**

Following a site meeting, members discussed the extent of the repairs to be carried out to the fence abutting the River Avon. The Town Clerk confirmed that it was the Town Council's responsibility to keep the fence in good repair and replace the stile.

RESOLVED:

(i) that the Town Council repair the fence abutting the River Avon, replace the stile and, subject to (ii) below, erect a simple sign stating "Deep Water" at the site, and

(ii) that the Town Clerk enquire of the Council's Insurers as to the extent of the Council's liability in respect of the site.

**OS/4517
NEW FOREST AT PLAY – PLAY STRATEGY AND ACTION PLAN FOR THE NEW FOREST (DRAFT)**

Members considered the summary of the Play Strategy and Action Plan for the New Forest (Draft).

RESOLVED:

(i) that the Values and Policy Principles and Aims and Objectives of the Draft Play Strategy and Action Plan for the New Forest be supported;

(ii) that the District Council be advised that under the section Values and Policy Principles for Children's Play, the Town Council suggests that an additional value be added emphasising that adequate provision should be made for unstructured play, e.g. running, kicking/throwing balls; and

(iii) that the District Council be asked whether it would be possible to adopt a district-wide mechanism whereby smoking could be banned from children's play areas.

**OS/4518
PROPOSED RUGBY FACILITY AT RINGWOOD JUNIOR SCHOOL**

Cllr Wood, as the Council's representative on the Steering Group, reported that the next scheduled meeting of the Group had been cancelled as it was felt that no further progress could be made due to the inadequate response from the County Council.

The Town Clerk reported that he was awaiting replies to the Council's letter regarding the terms of the lease which had been sent to Council Leaders.

Cllr Thierry asked whether the Town Council could invite Cllr John Waddington, as the town's representative at the County Council, to attend the next Full Council meeting to explain how he sees the matter progressing.

RESOLVED: that County Cllr John Waddington, be invited to attend the next Full Council meeting to report on the Terms of Lease offered by the County Council and to explain how he sees the project to provide rugby facilities at Ringwood Junior School progressing.

OS/4519

BOUNDARY FENCE BETWEEN RINGWOOD CEMETERY AND RINGWOOD JUNIOR SCHOOL

The Town Clerk reported that a letter had been received from the Headteacher of Ringwood Junior School enquiring whether the Town Council would be prepared to contribute to the replacement of the boundary fence between the School and the Cemetery as it was in a very poor state of repair. The Headteacher had quoted a sum of £20 per metre plus fitting for new chainlink fencing. Further information as to the total costs had been requested from the school.

Cllr Thierry proposed that, as the Council did not have a budget for such work in the current financial year, that the school be so advised.

RESOLVED: that the Headteacher of Ringwood Junior School be advised that the Town Council would consider the request in the next financial year, if it had a responsibility in regard to the fencing.

OS/4520

URGENT MATTERS

(a) Dr Little Gardens – the Town Clerk reported that the District Valuer had confirmed that the Highways Agency had declared the land in its ownership in Dr Little Gardens as surplus to highway requirements and was prepared to sell this to the Town Council. Money from Developers' Contributions could be available for the purchase.

RESOLVED: that the Town Clerk continue negotiations to purchase land at Dr Little Gardens from the Highways Agency.

(b) Wayleave – the Bickerley – The Clerk reported that Scottish & Southern Energy plc would be removing the overhead cables from The Bickerley adjoining the Castleman Trail and replacing them with underground cables on the other side of the Trail. The Council would receive £250 compensation for the Wayleave and the sum of £25 for each of the 3 poles removed. A small annual payment for the new Wayleave would also be received.

RESOLVED: that the terms for the granting of the Wayleave for underground electricity cables across The Bickerley be approved.

(c) Ringwood Healthy Walks – The Clerk reported that the Planning, Town & Environment Committee was seeking the support of the Recreation, Leisure & Open Spaces Committee for certain Healthy Walks routes across this Committee's Open Spaces which were part of an initiative to promote "walking the way to health".

RESOLVED: that the Committee accepts the Recommendations of the Planning, Town & Environment Committee with regard to Health Walking Routes across its land in Ringwood.

As there was no further business, the meeting closed at 8.40 pm.