

**OPEN SESSION:** There were 3 members of the public present, one of whom wished to speak. The Open Session ended at 7.10 pm.

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

Held on Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> May 2004 at 7.10 pm

**PRESENT:** Cllr N W Light  
Cllr N J Chard  
Cllr Mrs B A Charlton  
Cllr D E Cracknell  
Cllr M H Thierry  
Cllr N Wood

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

### **OS/4502 ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence had been received from Cllr C Ford, Cllr Mrs B J Wright and Cllr S C Wright.

### **OS/4503 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were none.

### **OS/4504 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

**RESOLVED:** that the minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> April 2004, having been circulated, be approved and signed as a correct record.

### **OS/4505 POCKET PARK**

The Chairman reported that recent urgent tree work carried out on the advice of the District Council's arboriculturalist, had left an area of the Pocket Park which required attention.

The Pocket Park had been created as a Wildlife Park by a small group of volunteers, with the help of the Hampshire Wildlife Trust, in 1990. However, the group had disbanded in 1992 with the Town Council carrying out maintenance work since then. Cllr Light said he saw the future of the Pocket Park as an Amenity Park, rather than just a wildlife area and circulated to members a plan of the area together with his suggestions for landscaping, planting etc. (see Annex 'A').

Cllr Thierry said he felt that Cllr Light's recommendations for the Pocket Park could not be improved upon and the Committee should accept them in total. He enquired whether the improvements could be funded from Developers' Contributions.

The Town Clerk replied that the Pocket Park was in a Conservation Area and any work carried out would require the consent of the Planning Department of the District Council. It was possible that funds might be available from Developers' Contributions and he would make enquiries of the District Council. He informed members that there was no budget provision for

any work. A request for funds from the Council's Reserves would need to be made to the Policy & Finance Committee. A nursery could be approached to provide a design to be submitted to the Planning Department.

Cllr Mrs Charlton suggested that sponsorship might be obtained for some of the work.

Cllr Light recommended that early Autumn would be a good time to commence work on moving soil and planting shrubs.

**RESOLVED:**

(a) that proposals in the scheme for Pocket Park suggested by Cllr Light (Annex 'A' to these Minutes) be approved;

(b) that the Town Clerk be instructed to develop the proposals with consultation arrangements, identifying possible funding and report back thereon to a future meeting of the Committee.

**OS/4506**

**NORTHFIELD PLAY AREA**

The Town Clerk reported that budget provision had been made to upgrade the facilities at the play area and following the site visit, members' views on the extent of the work to be carried out was now requested.

Cllr Wood felt that more equipment should be obtained, suitable for pre-school children, which would result in more use of the area.

Further suggestions were the retention of the fence around the play equipment, a sign at the entrance to the site and a suitable seating area for adults.

It was also suggested that a local Pre-School Group be approached for their views.

**RESOLVED:**

(a) that further consultation be undertaken with local Pre-School Groups, school children and residents in the area on the type of extra play equipment they would like to see installed at Northfield Play Area; and

(b) that the Town Clerk obtain prices for further pieces of play equipment and groundwork to be carried out.

**OS/4507**

**PROPOSED RUGBY FACILITIES AT RINGWOOD JUNIOR SCHOOL**

The Committee received reports of meetings of the Steering Group held on 7<sup>th</sup> April and 4<sup>th</sup> May 2004.

Members discussed the way forward at length, and it was

**RESOLVED:**

(a) that Hampshire County Council's present proposal of a 35 year lease for the site of the building, car parking and one rugby pitch and a licence, terminating at any time, for one further pitch is unsatisfactory and

(b) that the Town Clerk draft a letter to Cllr John Waddington, the Portfolio Holder for Recreation & Leisure at Hampshire County Council, with copies to Cllr Ken Thorber, Leader of Hampshire County Council, Cllr Mel Kendal, Leader of New Forest District Council, Cllr Barry Rickman, Portfolio Holder for Leisure at New Forest District Council and Cllr Mrs Kathy Heron

County Councillor for the Fordingbridge Electoral Division, requesting their support for the grant of a 35 year lease for the whole of the school playing field.

**OS/4508**  
**URGENT BUSINESS**

**(a) HAPTC AGM on 16<sup>th</sup> October 2004.**

**RESOLVED:** that no resolution be submitted from this Committee for the Association's AGM.

**(b) Hightown Road Allotment Site.**

Ringwood School had enquired whether it would be possible for the School to rent an allotment at the Hightown Road site to be cultivated by students as an environmental project. Members were informed that a plot had just become vacant at the site, but that there was a waiting list.

**RESOLVED:** that, on this occasion, Ringwood School's request for an allotment take priority over the Council's Waiting List and the School be offered the tenancy of Plot H.4, free of charge until the end of September 2004 when the tenancies are renewed. The School could renew the tenancy if required.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.00 pm.