

**OPEN SESSION:** There were no members of the public present.

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

Held on Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> September 2004 at 6.00 pm

**PRESENT:** Cllr N W Light  
Cllr N J Chard  
Cllr D E Cracknell  
Cllr L C Ford  
Cllr M H Thierry  
Cllr N Wood

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Terry Simpson, Town Clerk  
Lyn Wickens, Personal Assistant to Town Clerk  
Inspector J Kenna, Hampshire Constabulary  
Cllr B H Terry, Chairman, Ringwood Youth Club

### **OS/4542 ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Mrs B A Charlton, Mrs B J Wright and S C Wright.

### **OS/4543 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were none.

### **OS/4544 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

**RESOLVED:** that the minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> July 2004, having been circulated, be approved and signed as a correct record.

With the agreement of all Members, agenda item 10, Ringwood Youth Club, was taken next.

### **OS/4545 RINGWOOD YOUTH CLUB**

Cllr B Terry, Chairman of Ringwood Youth Club, informed members that he had received notification recently from Hampshire County Council that funding for a youth worker to run Ringwood Youth Club was being withdrawn. He had called a meeting of members of the Youth Club Committee, representatives of Hampshire County Council's Youth Service, County Councillor John Waddington and Inspector J Kenna of Ringwood Police to discuss the issue.

Cllr Terry was pleased to report that, as a result of the meeting, Cllr Waddington had been instrumental in securing funding for the Youth Club until April 2005. However, several points had been raised at the meeting, which needed deeper consideration.

It was felt that the Activities Centre at Greyfriars was not an appropriate place for a Youth Club. Inspector Kenna explained that there was a need for youngsters to claim ownership of the Youth Club premises, wherever they were. He was concerned that if the Ringwood Youth Club closed down, crime and disorder in the town would escalate.

The feeling had also been expressed at the meeting that adult involvement at the Youth Club had been lacking and Cllr Terry felt that the Town Council should become more involved.

The Town Clerk, who had also been present at the meeting, expressed concern that no consultation had taken place before HCC had given notification of the withdrawal of funds. He felt that it was now important to consult properly in order to meet the expectations of the youngsters. To this end, the Town Council had already issued a note to the entrants at the recent Skate Jam asking for their opinions on what sort of amenities they would like to see in the town. The Head of Ringwood School had offered assistance in obtaining this information from students and the press had promised publicity in the near future.

The Town Clerk suggested that perhaps the pavilion on Carvers could be utilised as a Youth Centre on a trial basis, with an adult presence. Youngsters already recognised Carvers as a meeting place and therefore might be keener to stay there, rather than loiter in the town centre. Inspector Kenna felt this would be a positive move and was supported by Cllr Cracknell. It was felt that this trial could be reviewed and made more permanent after the Health Centre moved.

Cllr Cracknell said that Ringwood youngsters were, in the main, well behaved and Ringwood did not have the problems suffered by some other towns in the area.

Cllr Thierry was concerned that the County had been proposing to remove funding of £3,500 per annum. He was happy for the Town Council to have wider responsibility for youth, but this would have an impact on the Council's budget.

Cllr Light, in summing up, said that the Town Council wanted to support enhanced provision for the town's youth, but was not happy that Hampshire County Council funding should just cease.

**RESOLVED:**

- (a) that the Town Clerk clarify the position of youth funding by Hampshire County Council
- (b) that, in consultation with other interested parties, the Town Clerk explores the utilisation of Council assets for the benefit of the youth of the town
- (c) that the matter be placed on the agenda for the next meeting of the committee
- (d) that the youngsters in the town be invited to attend a Full Council meeting to have their say in what facilities they would like to see in the town.

It was agreed that agenda item 4, Ringwood Health Centre, be taken under the Exclusion of Public and Press together with item 14.

**OS/4546**

**PROPOSED RUGBY FACILITY AT RINGWOOD JUNIOR SCHOOL**

Members received the notes of the Steering Group meeting held on 2<sup>nd</sup> August 2004. It was noted that the Rugby Club had agreed to carry out consultations with officers at the District Council and prepare further documentation. These actions had not yet been completed and members considered that at this stage it was not prudent to make application for the release £10,000 of Developers' Contributions for advance design works until the matters had been resolved. Cllr Thierry expressed the opinion that each stakeholder, the school, the rugby club and the Town Council, should pay an equal share of advance design works.

**RESOLVED:**

- (a) that the Town Council take no action to seek release of Developers' Contributions for advance design works until it has answers to the queries raised at the Steering Group meeting held on 2<sup>nd</sup> August.
- (b) that the Town Clerk investigate the position regarding the District Council's lease of land at Long Lane.

**OS/4547  
NORTHFIELD PLAY AREA**

Cllr Light congratulated the Deputy Town Clerk on her very clear report on the play area, the recommendations of which were discussed by members. It was noted that there was a budget provision of approximately £7,500 to carry out works to this play area. However, this would not be sufficient to provide an attractive and useful facility to meet the aspirations of those who had responded to the survey carried out during the summer.

**RECOMMENDED:**

to the Policy & Finance Committee that up to £10,000 of the general reserve be released for the refurbishment and updating of the Northfield Play Area, in addition to the funds already included in the budget;

**RESOLVED:**

- (a) that, subject to the Policy & Finance Committee agreeing to the release of additional funds, the Town Clerk obtain costs for a scheme to include new fencing, new seating, new surfacing plus 4 pieces of equipment (2 original plus 2 new pieces); and
- (b) that the District Council be approached for funding arising from the sale of the recreational area at Stillwater Park.

**OS/4548  
RINGWOOD FLOOD DEFENCE SCHEME**

The notes of a meeting between the Environment Agency, Halcrow and the Town Council's representatives regarding the location of a proposed flood bank between Old Mill House Flats and the disused railway was received.

**RESOLVED:**

That the proposals contained within the notes be supported.

**OS/4549  
DELEGATIONS**

In order to close a gap in procedure, the Town Clerk asked the committee to consider authorising the Town Clerk, in consultation with the Chairman and Vice Chairman, to take such action as is necessary, including termination of leases/tenancies, where users of the facilities are in breach of their tenancy conditions.

**RESOLVED:**

That Town Clerk, in consultation with the Chairman and Vice Chairman, be authorised to take such action as is necessary, including termination of leases/tenancies, where users of the facilities are in breach of their tenancy conditions.

**OS/4550  
BUDGET 2005/2006**

Members were asked to identify any areas where changes – increases or decreases – in services should be considered and to advise the Town Clerk accordingly.

**RECOMMENDED:**

that the Policy and Finance Committee be requested to consider producing a Town Council quarterly Newsletter.

**OS/4551**

**URGENT BUSINESS**

**(a) Ringwood School – request to mark out hard tennis courts for netball.** The Town Clerk reported that Ringwood School had requested permission to mark out the hard tennis courts for netball. The tennis nets would be removed at the start of each school day and replaced each evening. The Tennis Club had advised that they would not welcome use of the courts for netball.

**RESOLVED:** that Ringwood School be advised that permission is granted for a one year trial, for the hard tennis courts to be marked out for netball in an approved colour other than white and that students using the court wear appropriate footwear.

**(b) Change of time for Committee Meetings.**

**RESOLVED:**

that a permanent change of time for Committee Meetings from 7.00 pm to 6.00 pm be an agenda item for the next meeting of the committee and that an analysis of staff and councillors' opinions on the change be sought before the meeting.

**(c) Cemetery trees.** The Clerk reported on a meeting with the arboriculturalist from the District Council. A cursory inspection by the arboriculturalist of trees in the Cemetery on the boundary with Ringwood Junior School had revealed that 3 trees probably needed attention and that a more detailed survey/risk assessment of the trees on the boundary needed to be carried out.

The District Council did not have the resources to undertake this work on behalf of the Town Council and private sector consultants would need to be appointed. The Mayor was not convinced that the inspections could not be carried out by the council's own staff, but if it was necessary to survey the trees at the Cemetery, inspections should also be carried out to all trees on Council land.

**RESOLVED:**

that the Town Clerk obtain quotations from appropriate consultants for a complete survey/risk assessment of the trees on the boundary of the Cemetery and Ringwood Junior School and other sites under the Council's control.

**(d) Fencing – boundary Ringwood Cemetery/Ringwood Junior School.** The Clerk reported on a letter received from the Headteacher of Ringwood Junior School asking the Town Council for a contribution towards the cost of erecting fencing on the school side of the boundary wall between the school and the Cemetery, the total cost of which was over £3,000. This was to try to stop entrance to school property over the existing boundary wall.

**RESOLVED:** that the Headteacher of Ringwood Junior School be advised that the Town Council had no funds available to assist with the cost of erecting a fence on the boundary between the school and the Cemetery.

**OS/4552  
EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS**

**RESOLVED:** that under section 100(A) of the Local Government Sect 1972, the public and press be excluded from the meeting of the following items of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information.

**OS/4553  
BICKERLEY MILLSTREAM**

The Clerk reported on the latest offer received for lots 1a and 2 for the Fishing Rights on the Millstream.

**RESOLVED:**

(a) that the Fishing Rights on the Bickerley Millstream be not sold until there is a substantial offer.

(b) that the item be included on the agenda for the next meeting of the Committee to enable members to consider how to utilise the area for the benefit of the town.

**OS/4554  
RINGWOOD HEALTH CENTRE**

The Town Clerk reported that, in accordance with the Committee's previous decisions, Medcentres Ltd was prepared to carry out refurbishment work to the pavilion on Carvers and pay a rental for the use of the site. The Council's Valuers had confirmed that the overall compensatory payments to the Council were satisfactory. On consideration of the elements of the payment it was

**RESOLVED:**

That the terms recommended by the Council's Valuers be approved, subject to a cash equivalent to the value of the works to be carried out being paid to the Council so that the Council can arrange for these works to be carried out under its direct supervision.

The Chairman congratulated Cllr Neville Chard on coming 3<sup>rd</sup> in a nationwide Groundsman of the Year Competition – it was a great achievement and his success was well deserved.

Cllr Cracknell informed the Committee that this year's Skate Jam had again been very successful with the cost to the Council being only £250. He wished to thank the office staff, and Cllrs Light and Clarke for their assistance. Thanks were also due to our groundsman David Dunford and his family who had assisted with litter picking after the event.

There being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 7.25 pm.