

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

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

Held on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2006 at 7.00 pm

**PRESENT:** Cllr N W Light (Chairman)  
Cllr N J Chard  
Cllr Mrs B A Charlton  
Cllr D Cole  
Cllr D E Cracknell  
Cllr L C Ford  
Cllr Mrs V A Sullivan  
Cllr N Wood

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Mr T R Simpson, Town Clerk  
Mrs L A Wickens, P A to the Town Clerk

**OS/4710  
ABSENCE**

An apology for absence was received from Cllr M F Daly.

**OS/4711  
DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Cllr D Cole declared a personal and prejudicial interest in Agenda item 7 as a resident of the area in question and left the room during discussion and voting on this item.

**OS/4712  
MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

**RESOLVED:** That the minutes of the meeting held on 7<sup>th</sup> December 2005, having been circulated, be approved and signed as a correct record, with an amendment to note that Cllr Mrs Sullivan was present at that meeting.

**OS/4713  
MILLSTREAM**

The Clerk advised members that he was still waiting to hear whether a local fishing club was interested in purchasing the Fishing Rights on the Southern Beat of the Millstream. The terms of one offer already received were reported to the Committee.

**RESOLVED:** that the Town Clerk, in consultation with the Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Committee be authorised to accept the best offer for the sale of the Fishing Rights on the Southern Beat of the Millstream, the decision to be reached by the end of January 2006.

**OS/4714  
CARVERS PAVILION**

The Town Clerk reported that he had hoped to have the refurbishment proposals to show members but that these had not yet been received from the architects. He hoped they would be available by the next meeting of the committee.

**RESOLVED:** that the Clerk's report be noted.

**OS/4715**

**OLD MILL HOUSE FLATS, THE BICKERLEY**

The Town Clerk reported that a request had been received from the Residents' Association, Old Mill House Flats, for permission to create a new access by the garages of the flats onto Riverside for the District Council's refuse wagons to collect the refuse bags from the flats.

Members felt that a formal legal agreement was necessary between the Town Council and the Residents' Association, with the Residents' Association paying all its and the Council's legal fees. It was also considered that the Residents' Association should make all the necessary arrangements with NFDC regarding the refuse collection and that all refuse sacks should be kept within the boundary of the flats.

**RESOLVED:** that the creation of the additional access requested by the Residents' Association be approved, subject to:

- (i) the new access from Old Mill House Flats onto Riverside be used only for the purpose of refuse collection;
- (ii) the Residents' Association paying the costs of a legal agreement between the Town Council and the Residents' Association;
- (iii) all refuse sacks being confined within the boundary of the land in the ownership of the Association, and
- (iv) the Residents' Association making all the necessary arrangements with the District Council regarding their refuse collection.

*Cllr Cole declared a prejudicial interest in the following item and left the room for the duration of the debate and voting thereon.*

**OS/4716**

**GRAVEL TRACK ACROSS THE BICKERLEY**

The Town Clerk reminded members that it was illegal for vehicles to park on the Village Green.

Cllr Chard said that the gravel track across The Bickerley from Kings Arms Lane to Riverside was constantly partially blocked by illegally parked vehicles. This would make it extremely difficult for emergency vehicles to pass down the track. He felt that clear signs needed to be erected stating that it was illegal to park on the track.

The Clerk said that he had investigated the possibility of appointing a licenced clamping company to remove illegally parked vehicles. Signs with the correct legal wording would need to be erected. Release fees could be considerable as there was not a licenced clamping company in the immediate area.

Cllr Cracknell felt that it was time to take action on the matter as up to now the Council had been making idle threats.

The Town Clerk stated that special arrangements would need to be made with the residents of Bickerley Terrace, which might involve selling part of the Village Green to each resident as a parking space. However in that event, alternative land would need to be acquired to replace the area of Village Green that had been sold. It was not legally possible to simply grant licences for residents' parking.

**RESOLVED:**

- (i) that the possibility of appointing a licenced clamping company be investigated;
- (ii) that the terms and conditions of clamping be investigated;

- (iii) that investigations be made into regularising parking arrangements for residents of Bickerley Terrace and
- (iv) that signs be erected advising that it is illegal to park on the Village Green.

*Cllr Cole returned to the meeting.*

#### **OS/4717 SECOND TREE SURVEY**

The Clerk reported that Barrell Tree Care Ltd had been appointed to supervise the tree work to be carried out at The Cemetery, Castleman Way and Dr Little Gardens.

**RESOLVED:** that the appointment of Barrell Tree Care Ltd to act as supervisor for these sites be noted.

#### **OS/4718 LONG LANE**

The Clerk reminded members that both he and the Chairman of Committee had met with a local landowner on more than one occasion to discuss the Council's purchase of approximately 20 acres of land to enable the Council's vision of a centre of excellence for sport at Long Lane to be realised. If the landowner was now agreeable to selling the land, a Planning Application for change of use would need to be submitted before the purchase went ahead.

However, if an agreed purchase could not be achieved, compulsory purchase would have to be considered to enable the Council's objectives to be met.

#### **RESOLVED:**

- (i) that no change be made to the Council's strategic objective to acquire land within the boundary of Long Lane, Moortown Lane and Green Lane to enable it to establish a centre of excellence for sport and meet the current under-provision of these facilities;
- (ii) that the Town Clerk, Mayor and other appropriate members be appointed to meet with the owners to discuss the terms for acquisition of the land; and
- (iii) that in the event of the landowners not agreeing to sell the land, application be made for it to be acquired by compulsory purchase.

#### **OS/4719 PARSONAGE BARN LANE**

Members viewed the latest sketch plans of the proposed pavilion.

**RESOLVED:** that the latest sketch plans of the proposed pavilion be received.

#### **OS/4720 URGENT BUSINESS**

##### **(i) PURCHASE OF LAND**

The Chairman was pleased to report that the purchase of land at The Bickerley and Dr Little Gardens had been completed on Christmas Eve. The Clerk advised that temporary work to tidy up the area purchased at The Bickerley would commence shortly.

**RESOLVED:** that the report be received.

##### **(ii) TREE LINES – HIGHTOWN ROAD/CASTLEMAN WAY ESTATE and SOUTHAMPTON ROAD/CARVERS CHILDREN'S PLAYGROUND**

(a) The Clerk reported that the gap in the tree line recently filled in had once again been torn down. It would therefore be necessary to erect stronger fencing to restrict access onto

Hightown Road. The gap in this fence enabled direct access from the Castleman Estate onto the Hightown Road carriageway and constituted a severe danger to schoolchildren who took this short cut to the Junior School.

(b) Cllr Ford reported that she had seen students from Ringwood School climbing over the fencing into the Children's Playground from Southampton Road.

**RESOLVED:**

(a) that, in order to restrict access from the Castleman Way Estate through the gap in the tree line onto Hightown Road, a strong, high fence be erected.

(b) that the Clerk write to the Head Teacher, Ringwood School, regarding students climbing over the fencing between Southampton Road and the Children's Playground.

**(iii) CEMETERY – HEALTH AND SAFETY**

(a) The Town Clerk updated members on Health & Safety issues at the Cemetery.

(b) The Clerk advised members that three Irish Yew trees which were overhanging the path needed to be removed as hearses had difficulty in getting past. He suggested that the trees be cut down, but the stumps not ground out as this substantially increased the cost.

**RESOLVED:**

(a) that the Town Clerk's actions with regard to Health & Safety issues at the Cemetery be endorsed and

(b) that two more quotations be sought with regard to the removal of three Irish Yews. Each quotation to be in two parts viz: for removal only and removal plus grinding out of the stumps.

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