

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

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

Held on Wednesday 5th March 2008 at 7.00pm

Apologies

Prior to the meeting, the Town Clerk reported that apologies for absence had been received from Cllrs D E Cracknell, P Chambers and L C Ford.

Declarations of Interest

There were none at this time.

PRESENT: Cllr N J Chard
Cllr D Cole
Cllr B H Terry
Cllr M J Urwin
Cllr A C Wiseman

IN ATTENDANCE: Mr T R Simpson, Town Clerk
Mrs L A Wickens, P A to the Town Clerk
Miss B Scrivens, Student Adviser
Miss Hannah Madge, Student Adviser

OS/4974

ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN OF COMMITTEE

RESOLVED: That, following the death of Cllr M Daly, Cllr Chard be elected as Chairman of the Recreation, Leisure & Open Spaces Committee for the remainder of the Council year.

OS/4975

APPOINTMENT OF VICE CHAIRMAN OF COMMITTEE

RESOLVED: That Cllr Chambers be elected as Vice-Chairman of the Recreation, Leisure & Open Spaces Committee for the remainder of the Council year.

OS/4976

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting held on 6th February 2008, having been circulated, be approved and signed as a correct record.

OS/4977

RINGWOOD CEMETERY – TREE WORKS

The Town Clerk advised members that whilst groundsmen had been working recently around and under a large Monterey Cypress, they had observed that the numerous trunks of the tree were splitting and immediate remedial action by a tree surgeon would be required. Accordingly, a contractor inspected the tree and also another Cypress in the Cemetery and both trees were felled. This incurred expenditure of £2,300. As many of the trees both in the Cemetery and on other Council land had been planted at around the same time, it was probable that they might also be coming to the end of their natural lifespan and the Council would need to take this into consideration when setting future budgets.

The wood chippings arising from the felling were being made available for residents, free of charge, to collect and use as mulch on their gardens.

RESOLVED: that the Town Clerk's action in this matter be approved.

Cllrs Chard and Wiseman declared personal but not prejudicial interests in the following item. They remained in the room during discussion and voting on the item.

OS/4978

CAR PARKING TO SUPPORT TEN ACRE FIELD

The Town Clerk reported that the success of the football pitches at Long Lane had presently resulted in cars being parked along both Long Lane and Moortown Lane, causing obstruction to sight lines and difficulties for traffic using these roads. The Council would need to submit a new Planning Application together with plans to provide 33 additional parking spaces in the Football Club car park. This had been included in the Council's original Planning Application but had been withdrawn on the advice of NFDC as not being necessary.

RESOLVED: that arrangements be made to enable the Town Council to submit a Planning Application for the provision of 33 additional parking spaces in the Ringwood Town Football Club car park to alleviate the parking problems in the roads in the area.

OS/4979

RIVERSIDE WALK

The Town Clerk reminded Members that it was the Council's long term aim to link The Bickerley with West Street via a riverside walk and to this end, negotiations had taken place with landowners to discuss the acquisition of small strips of land to create the walk. The District Council had already earmarked a strip of land at the rear of the bus station which would complete the link.

The Town Clerk advised that in order to take negotiations forward, two Members of the Committee should be appointed to attend meetings with the Clerk.

RESOLVED: that Councillors Terry and Cole, together with the Town Clerk, be appointed to negotiate with landowners in order to take forward the Council's aim to link the Bickerley with West Street via a riverside walk.

OS/4980

THE BICKERLEY

The Town Clerk reported that in order to alleviate the problem of frequent sewage surcharge in Bickerley Road, Wessex Water plc wished to carry out remedial works which would include the installation of new manholes and pipework. The works would necessitate the temporary diversion of the footpath near the pumping station and a temporary installation of speed ramps. In addition an area of land adjacent to the pumping station would be used for the storage of equipment. The works would commence as soon as all formal processes had been carried out and should be completed within two weeks of the start date. Full reinstatement would be undertaken upon completion. Members were pleased to note that this necessary remedial work would soon take place.

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

OS/4981

CARVERS RECREATION GROUND – DROP IN CENTRE

The Town Clerk advised the Committee that an unconditional grant of £1,850 had been received from Hampshire County Council via Cllr Clarke. The District Council had made an offer of £2,500 through its New Forest Community Safety Partnership with the condition that the Drop In Centre should be open two nights a week. At present, the Centre was run voluntarily by two youth workers on Friday nights only. They were not able to undertake another night. The New Forest Community Safety Partnership had offered to provide some assistance for the second night. However, after discussion, it was agreed that the offer of a conditional grant by New Forest Community Safety Partnership be not accepted, as it was felt that the

imposition of a condition was unwarranted interference with a Town Council facility. Whilst Members agreed that a second evening opening of the Drop In Centre would be of great benefit, such extension should be in response to any requests from users and the voluntary workers, rather than from imposed conditions relating to a grant.

RECOMMENDATION: it is recommended to Policy & Finance Committee that the conditional grant from The New Forest Community Safety Partnership in the sum of £2,500 be not accepted.

OS/4982

FLORAL DISPLAYS

Members were reminded that they had previously resolved to obtain two quotations for summer bedding displays, one on the basis of the current displays and an alternative with a low watering requirement. The Council's contractor had anticipated this request and had submitted a quotation with a low watering requirement. The Town Clerk informed the Committee that the company currently sponsoring the planting of the town centre roundabout had agreed to continue their sponsorship during the summer. It was hoped that during the Autumn a new planting scheme for the roundabout could be devised using shrubs with all-year-round colour, which would need to be submitted to the County Council for approval.

RESOLVED:

- (a)** that the quotation for summer bedding displays with a low watering content be accepted and
- (b)** that a new planting scheme for the town centre roundabout be progressed.

OS/4893

EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS

RESOLVED: That in view of the confidential nature of the business about to be transacted, it was advisable in the public interest that the press and public be temporarily excluded and they were instructed to withdraw (Annex 'A').

Cllr Chard declared a prejudicial interest in the following item and left the room during discussion and voting on the item. Cllr Terry took the Chair for this item.

OS/4894

RINGWOOD TOWN FOOTBALL CLUB

(a) Rent Review

The Town Clerk advised that the District Valuer's Report on the current market rental valuation of the Ringwood Football Club premises had been received. The Town Clerk suggested that two Committee Members be appointed to be involved in the negotiations with the Football Club.

RESOLVED: that Cllrs Chambers and Urwin together with the Town Clerk, be appointed to negotiate a rent review with Ringwood Town Football Club.

(b) Pavilion

The Town Clerk advised that it had been reported to him that the Ringwood Town Football Club pavilion needed refurbishment work.

RESOLVED: that Cllrs Chambers and Urwin together with the Town Clerk, be appointed to re-open dialogue with Ringwood Town Football Club in order to obtain the necessary refurbishment of the pavilion.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 7.55 pm.