

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

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

Held on Wednesday 6th February 2008 at 7.00pm

Apologies

Prior to the meeting, the Town Clerk reported that apologies for absence had been received from the Chairman, Cllr M F Daly and Cllr D E Cracknell.

Declarations of Interest

There were none.

PRESENT: Cllr N J Chard (in the Chair)
Cllr P Chambers
Cllr D Cole
Cllr L C Ford
Cllr B H Terry
Cllr M J Urwin
Cllr A C Wiseman

IN ATTENDANCE: Mr T R Simpson, Town Clerk
Mrs J Stannard, Deputy Town Clerk
Miss B Scrivens, Student Adviser
Miss Hannah Madge, Student Adviser

OS/4965

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting held on 9th January 2008, having been circulated, be approved and signed as a correct record.

OS/4966

RINGWOOD CEMETERY

(a) Use of Car Park

The Town Clerk reminded Members that the Council had previously allowed people dropping off and collecting children from Ringwood Junior School to use the Cemetery Car Park, providing they treated it with respect. Over time, there had been problems with a small minority of people, and Members had given him authority to close the gates when necessary. The gates were currently being closed at drop-off and pick-up times. However, following discussions with the Police, who were now taking an active interest, it had been agreed to re-open them on Monday 11th February. However, if parents/carers continued to be disrespectful of the car park's main use, the gates would again be closed.

It was noted that the Police were working with the School to try and address parking issues and Cllr Urwin, a Governor at the School, stated that the Head was keen to try and resolve this matter.

RESOLVED: That action taken by the Town Clerk be approved.

(b) Allocation of Grave Spaces

Members noted that it was current practice to allow people to select the location of burial plots when they wished to purchase a grave space. However, this was causing difficulties when the digger had to access plots with adjoining plots that had already been used. It would therefore be necessary to amend the policy so that plots were allocated by the Council and could not be chosen.

The Town Clerk reported that there was also a need to adopt a formal policy on the maximum number of plots that could be purchased.

RESOLVED: That the Town Clerk prepare a report with suggestions for amendments to the Council's Cemetery Policy for consideration by the Committee.

**OS/4967
DROP IN CENTRE**

The Town Clerk reported that the Council had previously obtained planning consent for use of the small pavilion at Carvers Recreation Ground as a tennis pavilion (class D2 use). Since it had re-opened as the Drop-In Centre, the District Council had taken the view that this new use might fall into a different category (class D1). However, the District Council was unable to determine whether a change of use had occurred and had recommended that a Lawful Development Certificate be applied for.

Members agreed that, in their view, the Council had planning consent for the use of the building as a pavilion and that the current use fell within the same category

RESOLVED: That the Council does not apply for a Lawful Development Certificate for the Drop-In Centre.

**OS/4968
NEW HOUSING DEVELOPMENT – TRANSFER OF “ON-SITE” OPEN SPACE TO THE TOWN COUNCIL**

The Town Clerk reminded members that historically “off-site” open space was held freehold by the District Council and leased to Parish and Town Councils, and small “on-site” open spaces, for example the development on the ex-Nag’s Head site, would be held freehold by the Town Council.

Officers at the District Council were now advising that these small “on-site” open spaces could no longer be held freehold by town and parish councils. This meant that any small neighbourhood event which residents might wish to organise on such an open space would now need the permission of the District Council before it could take place.

The Town Clerk had taken this issue up with the District Council and the position had now been re-established. As a result, the District Council would be transferring the open space on the Castleman Way estate to the Town Council on a freehold basis.

RESOLVED: That the information be noted.

**OS/4969
PROVISION OF UNDER 18S NIGHT CLUB**

Members considered a report prepared by the Student Advisers Beth Scrivens and Hannah Madge (*Annex 'A'*).

Some concerns were raised with regard to finding a suitable venue whose owners would be prepared to take responsibility, particularly if those premises were licensed. As Cllr Urwin had experience in this area, she offered to help the students.

Members praised Hannah and Beth for their excellent report.

RESOLVED: That the student advisers be authorised to:

- i) look into a number of venues to establish running costs and proficiency of supervision facilities.
- ii) investigate costs of entertainment facilities and advertising costs

- iii) approach local businesses regarding sales of tickets.

OS/4970

FEES AND CHARGES 2008/09

Members reviewed the Council's current fees and charges, as follows:

(a) Ringwood Cemetery - Interments and Memorials

The Town Clerk reported that the proposed increases were in excess of inflation to bring the prices more in line with those charged by neighbouring authorities.

RESOLVED: That the cemetery fees for interments and memorials for 2008/09, as shown in *Annex 'B'*, be approved.

(b) Carvers Recreation Ground - Cricket

RESOLVED: That the fees for the hire of cricket wickets at Carvers for 2008/09, Casual and Block Booked, as shown in *Annex 'B'*, be approved.

(c) Long Lane - Sports Facilities

RESOLVED: That the fees for the hire of sports pitches at Long Lane for 2008/09, Casual and Block Booked, as shown in *Annex 'B'*, be approved.

(d) Allotments

Members noted that the cost of providing allotments was subsidised by all Ringwood residents through the precept, in the same manner as the cemetery. However, in the case of the cemetery, fees for non-residents were double those charged to residents to reflect the subsidy. The Town Clerk suggested that a similar principle should now be considered for non-resident allotment holders, although the percentage increase need not be the same as for burials.

It was noted that most of the non-resident tenants had well cultivated plots. Therefore, it was suggested that only new non-resident tenants be charged more.

It was noted that Ringwood residents were currently given priority over non-residents and, as there was a long waiting list, it was not likely that non-residents would be offered a plot for several years. However, it was agreed that arrangements should be put in place now, in the event that non-residents were offered plots in the future.

It was therefore agreed that non-resident tenants should be charged £40 for a full plot and £30 for a half plot.

RESOLVED: That the allotment fees for 2008/09, as shown in *Annex 'B'*, be approved.

(e) Bickerley Village Green

RESOLVED: That the fees for the hire of Bickerley Village Green for 2008/09, as shown in *Annex 'B'*, be approved.

OS/4971

HEDGE AT ANSON CLOSE

The Town Clerk reported that, over the years, people had been accessing The Mount through a gap in the hedge in Anson Close. The groundstaff had been requested to open this up as a formal access. However,

in response to concerns from residents, they had now been instructed to try to block off the access completely with planting and temporary fencing.

RESOLVED: That the information be noted.

OS/4972

LAND AT ASHLEY (FOLLY FARM)

Members had previously requested that the Town Clerk investigate the possible disposal of the small wooded area off Folly Farm Lane, just outside the parish boundary in Ashley. This land had previously been transferred to the Town Council by the District Council, subject to it being retained as public open space and, that if the Town Council wished to dispose of it, both the District Council and St Ives and St Leonards Parish Council having an option on it.

The Town Clerk had contacted St Ives and St Leonards Parish Council, whose Clerk had asked for a formal proposal prior to consideration by the Council.

Cllr Mrs Ford stated that the Town Council had previously used developers' contributions to purchase equipment to maintain this land. She felt it was of benefit to Ringwood residents and was therefore not in favour of disposing of the land.

RESOLVED:

- 1) That the Town Clerk contact New Forest District Council to determine its views on the possible disposal of the land.
- 2) That a site visit be arranged for members of the Committee to view the land.

OS/4973

USE OF THE BICKERLEY VILLAGE GREEN

The Town Clerk reported that the District Council's environmental health department was investigating a complaint from a resident of The Bickerley about the noise created by the funfair at last year's Carnival. The funfair operator acknowledged that a generator had been placed too close to residential dwellings and would be making every effort to reduce the noise level this year.

RESOLVED: That the information be noted.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 8.06pm.