

OPEN SESSION:

There were eleven members of the public present (*see attached*).

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

**Held on 4<sup>th</sup> March 2009 at 7.00pm**

### Apologies

The Town Clerk reported that apologies for absence had been received from Cllr Ford, Jessica Osborne-Lax, Student Advisor, and Maisie Jenkinson, Student Advisor

### Declarations of Interest

OS/5066 Cllr Wiseman declared a personal interest as she has a relative who is an allotment holder.

OS/5067 Cllr Cole and Cllr O'Reilly declared a personal and prejudicial interest in the fees and charges relating to the Bickerley as they live near by. They left the room and took no part in the discussion or decision made on that item in the report.

OS/5072 Cllr O'Reilly declared a personal and prejudicial interest in Land Adjacent to the Millstream as she lives nearby. Cllr O'Reilly left the room and took no part in the discussion or decision made.

OS/5073 Cllr Wiseman declared a personal and prejudicial interest in this item as she lives near Long Lane sports field. Cllr Wiseman left the room and took no part in the discussion or decision made.

PRESENT: Cllr N J Chard (Chairman)  
Cllr P Chambers (Vice Chairman)  
Cllr D R Cole  
Cllr L C Ford  
Cllr G J O'Reilly  
Cllr B H Terry  
Cllr M J Urwin  
Cllr A C Wiseman

IN ATTENDANCE: Terry Simpson, Town Clerk  
Claire Perrens, Meetings Administrator

### **OS/5063**

#### **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

**RESOLVED:** That the minutes of the meeting held on 4<sup>th</sup> February, having been circulated, be approved and signed as a correct record.

*Agenda Items 3 and 4 were brought forward as there was a representative of the Lantern Community present.*

### **OS/5064**

#### **SHIELING SCHOOL**

The Town Clerk reported that the Shieling School had approached the Council to ascertain if there was any suitable gardening work that could be undertaken by its students. Following discussions, it had been agreed that a partnership project could be implemented to enable the students to plant bedding plants in the flower beds at the entrance to the Cemetery and at Jubilee Gardens. The students will gain experience of gardening work, with the Town Council providing the plants. The Town Clerk invited the Shieling School to put up a sign to advertise their contribution to the community. Simon Figg, Company Secretary of the Lantern Community thanked the Town Clerk and said he would inform the School.

It was noted that there is no liability for the Town Council, as the work will be done on a voluntary basis, under supervision by the School, and no machinery will be used.

**RESOLVED:** That arrangement for the Shieling School to maintain the flower bed at the entrance to the cemetery and work at Jubilee Gardens be approved.

<b>ACTION</b> Terry Simpson
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**OS/5065  
LAND AT FOLLY FARM**

Members considered initial outline proposals (*Annex 'A' attached*) from the Lantern Community for a lease agreement relating to land at Folly Farm. The proposals seek to maintain the woodland and create a pleasant public space, encouraging community involvement and visitors. Simon Figg on behalf of the Lantern Community commented that they would need to seek advice from organisations such as English Nature, and that they would like to work closely with the Town Council and to have its support.

Members agreed that the rent should be 'peppercorn' to reflect the improvements which the Lantern Community plan to undertake. The Mayor suggested a 50 year lease could be offered. The Town Clerk said that the agreement, once finalised, would have to be advertised and any objections considered under the regulations for disposal of public Open Space. As Folly Farm is actually just outside the Town, he also suggested that Mr Figg and representatives from the Committee should meet members of St Leonards and St Ives Parish Council to inform them of the plans and explore ways of working together.

**RECOMMENDED:**

- 1) That the proposals *as attached in Annex 'A'* be approved, in principle; and
- 2) That the Town Clerk be authorised to take forward further negotiations
- 3) That arrangements be made for the Chairman and Vice-Chairman and the Lantern Community to meet with representatives of St Leonards and St Ives Parish Council to discuss the proposals.

<b>ACTION</b> Terry Simpson
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**OS/5066  
ALLOTMENT WAITING LIST**

*Cllr Wiseman declared a personal interest as she has a relative who is an allotment holder.*

The Town Clerk reported that work has been undertaken to update the Waiting List for an Allotment. There are around 130 people waiting, all of whom have been written to and asked to complete a formal application form if they wish to remain on the List. Most have replied, but a second reminder has been sent to those who have not. The Town Clerk proposed that those who have not met the second deadline, having been sent two letters, should be removed from the Waiting List. He also suggested that as the plots are very large, the Committee should now consider the terminology used to describe the allotments. There is no statutory minimum size of an allotment and since the Council had decided to divide each existing full plot, the existing names of full and half plot were a misnomer. These should be renamed as 'single' (instead of half) plot and 'double' (instead of single) plot, to reflect this. The review had also identified applications where more than one person in a single household sought an allotment.

Currently, there are some cases where a parent has an allotment, with children helping more as parents become older. As the parent is the allotment holder, the children have no right to it, if the parent dies or moves away, even if they have worked it for some time. They would need to go to the bottom of the Waiting List. Members agreed it would be fairer to allow succession for family members.

**RESOLVED:**

- 1) That the work taken to update the Waiting List be approved;
- 2) That the removal of non responders from the List be approved;

- 3) That plots be renamed as Single (instead of Half) Plot and Double (instead of Single) Plot;
- 4) That, provided they have continuously assisted with the maintenance of the allotment plot for at least two years, the children of an allotment holder be entitled to succession on the plot; and
- 5) That only one single plot be allocated to each household and no applications be accepted from other members of the household whilst one person in the household has an allotment tenancy.

**ACTION** Christine Smith

#### **OS/5067**

#### **FEES AND CHARGES FOR 2009/10**

Members considered fees and charges for 2008/09 with proposals for 2009/10. The Chairman proposed increasing the proposed fees for Allotments, Cricket and Football, beyond those proposed (which are in line with inflation). His reasons were that the Town Council is not charging enough in comparison to other Councils for these facilities. However, Members felt that due to the economic downturn it would be inappropriate to increase the fees and charges beyond inflation at this time.

*Cllr Cole and Cllr O'Reilly declared a personal and prejudicial interest in the fees and charges relating to the Bickerley as they live near by. They left the room and took no part in the discussion or decision made on that item in the report.*

The Chairman proposed that the charge for an overnight stay on the Bickerley (used chiefly by organizers of fairs/circuses) be increased from the proposed £70 to £100, as this would not be unreasonable for up to five vans.

#### **RESOLVED:**

- 1) That the proposed fee for overnight stay at the Bickerley be increased from £70 to £100; and
- 2) That with this amendment the proposed fees and charges for 2009/10 be approved (as shown in Annex 'B').

**ACTION** Martin Townsend

#### **OS/5068**

#### **FOOTBALL AT CARVERS**

Members considered a request by Ringwood Rangers to use Carvers Recreation Ground on Saturday mornings to train Under Sevens, instead of Long Lane. It was noted that the Town Council had invested a great deal in Long Lane and would not wish to set a precedent or encourage football matches at Carvers. However, in this case, the request is for practice sessions within easy walking distance of Town. Some extra ground maintenance by Town Council will be required.

#### **RESOLVED:**

- 1) That permission be given to Ringwood Rangers to use Carvers on Saturday mornings to train Under Sevens, on a trial basis, until the end of April, on condition they provide and remove their own goal posts each week and;
- 2) That no parking be permitted at Carvers.

**ACTION** Christine Smith

#### **OS/5069**

#### **TREE WORKS ON OPEN SPACE SITES**

The Town Clerk reported that the site inspection has been completed and tenders have been sought from four contractors for tree works.

**RESOLVED:** That the Town Clerk's report be noted.

<b>ACTION</b> Terry Simpson
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**OS/5070  
CEMETERY**

The Town Clerk reported that the fast-growing leylandii along the border between the Cemetery and the School playing field are being cut back by a third and require constant pruning.

**RESOLVED:** That the Town Clerk's report be noted.

<b>ACTION</b> Terry Simpson
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**OS/5071  
EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC & PRESS**

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 'C' attached*).

**OS/5072  
LAND ADJACENT TO THE MILLSTREAM**

*Cllr O'Reilly declared a personal and prejudicial interest in Land Adjacent to the Millstream as she lives nearby. Cllr O'Reilly left the room and took no part in the discussion or decision made.*

The Town Clerk updated Members on the response of Ringwood Social Club to the Town Council's purchase offer for land necessary to create a public riverside walk. Although during initial discussions, the Chairman and Secretary of the Club seemed inclined to accept the offer made, they had to seek approval of members at an Extraordinary General Meeting. The Town Clerk offered to present the Council's proposals at the meeting and to arrange for councillors to be present to answer questions; this was not taken up. The proposal was defeated by 48 votes to 12.

The Town Clerk felt that the Social Club members had not understood what was proposed and had an unrealistic idea of the value of the land. The scheme for a Riverside Walk is in the interest of local people, and the proposals would have ensured the Social Club retained their access to the Millstream area.

Members considered whether to apply for a Compulsory Purchase Order. It was noted that the open Town Drain on the land in question is not well maintained.

**RESOLVED:** That the Town Clerk be authorised to apply to New Forest District Council for a Compulsory Purchase Order for the Social Club land adjacent to the Millstream.

<b>ACTION</b> Terry Simpson
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**OS/5073  
RINGWOOD TOWN FOOTBALL CLUB**

*Cllr Wiseman declared a personal and prejudicial interest in this item as she lives near Long Lane sports field. Cllr Wiseman left the room and took no part in the discussion or decision made.*

The Town Clerk provided an update on tenancy and maintenance issues at the football ground. A great deal of rubbish was being left by Ringwood Town Football Club and other users of Long Lane and the 10 Acre Field. The Town Clerk had written to all the users to inform them that unless rubbish is cleared away, the costs for using the facilities will be increased to cover clearing up undertaken by the Town Council.

**RESOLVED:** That the Town Clerk's action regarding rubbish left at Long Lane be approved.

<b>ACTION Terry Simpson</b>
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There being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 8.40pm.

**Note: The text in the Action Boxes above does not form part of these minutes.**

RECEIVED & ADOPTED  
25<sup>th</sup> March 2009

TOWN MAYOR

COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN