

OPEN SESSION: There were 4 members of the public present interested in or to speak on agenda items.

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

Held on Wednesday 5th April 2017 at 7.00pm

PRESENT: Cllr Andy Briers (Chairman)
Cllr Philip Day
Cllr Gloria O'Reilly (until 8pm)
Cllr Tony Ring
Cllr Tim Ward

IN ATTENDANCE: Terry Simpson, Interim Town Clerk
Nicola Vodden, Meetings Administrator
Oscar Poules, Student Advisor
Jack Cheshire, Student Advisor
Cllr Jeremy Heron

O/S5658 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

The Town Clerk reported that apologies for absence had been received from Cllr Wiseman and Cllr Terry.

OS/5659 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None were made at this stage.

OS/5660 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Meeting held on 1st March 2017, having been circulated, be approved and signed as a correct record.

OS/5661 THE PLACE

Cllr Heron declared a non-pecuniary interest, as a Trustee of The Place.

The Youth Co-Ordinator presented her monthly report and invited questions from Members. Regarding the crack in the floor, the Town Clerk confirmed that he would contact the builders to rectify it.

In respect of the provision of a café at The Place, the Town Clerk reported that there was the opportunity to open for the Easter break, by the Council employing someone on a temporary basis. He had had some preliminary discussions and indicated that the café could operate from 10:30 till 3pm, Monday to Friday for users of the play park and skate park, in line with the overall philosophy. He invited Members to agree the appointment subject to funding, which he estimated would be between £350 and £400 per week. In time, a clear analysis would be made on the costings, income, usage, etc. and reported back to Policy and Finance Committee, so that decisions could be made on how to take the café forward.

Cllr Heron reminded Members that Council proposed that the café open over Easter and was prepared to underwrite the cost, which would be offset against sales made. He indicated that

he was more comfortable with a council employee operating the café, in a way in which the Council intends.

The Youth Co-Ordinator commented that the café could work well if the closing time was around 3pm, as the youth work commences later. The young people had indicated that even in the school holidays, it was better to retain the usual timings for youth work sessions. She informed Members that she had requested further information on a national initiative, which offers start-up funding for the provision of free hot meals for referred young people in the school holidays.

In respect of the lighting on the front of the building, which had been suffering vandalism, the Town Clerk reported that he had requested alternatives be considered and was advised that the most appropriate solution would be for 6 skydisc LED soft lights to be installed under the soffits. These would be more robust and provide sufficient lighting. The cost to remove the current lights and install the new lights was £582 and he confirmed that there was provision in the general maintenance budget to fund the works.

RESOLVED: 1) That the Youth Co-Ordinator's monthly report and notes from her meeting with the Headteacher of Ringwood School be received (Annex A (i))
2) That the Town Clerk be authorised to open a café at The Place for 2 weeks over Easter, initially, within a budget of no more than £500 per week
3) That the notes of the Trustees meeting held on 29th March 2017 be received (Annex A (ii))
4) That the outside lighting on the front of The Place be replaced and funding of £582 be made available from the general maintenance budget

RECOMMENDATION TO POLICY AND FINANCE COMMITTEE: That funding for the opening of the café be underwritten for the 2 week trial over Easter, for up to £500 per week

Tracy Sims introduced herself to Members, outlining her experience and suggested menu for the café. She would provide costings and consider appropriate profit margins, considering that the Council and school wished to encourage healthy eating and that some items would need to appeal to those with little money to spend. She also agreed to publicise the café's opening hours, via social media. Oscar Poules, Student Advisor, agreed to help publicise the café via the Head teachers' P.A.

ACTION T Simpson

OS/5662 EVENTS

Members were asked to consider those parts of the Town Clerk's report (*Annex B*), in respect of events, which had been deferred from last month's meeting, as representatives of Ringwood Events Committee were unable to attend

At the meeting in March, the matters of Armed Forces Day and a request to hold a continental market at the Gateway Square in March, were resolved. Further to that, the Committee stood by the Council's decision to hold no more than one event in the Gateway Square per month (currently booked by the Antiques Fair), as to exceed this would impact severely on the operation of registration services and undermine the purpose for which Gateway Square was intended. It was also of the view that any continental market would be better located in the Market Place.

Rae Frederick and Nicola Jowett, from Ringwood Events Committee, were invited to speak and indicated that at this time they were not prepared to commit to organising any events in

the town. In respect of the fireworks display and Christmas market, Mrs Frederick indicated that they would have to weigh up if these two occasions were viable without additional events and more volunteers.

Cllr O'Reilly left the meeting at 8pm.

Members were saddened to hear this and gave recognition of the enormous benefit that events, such as the fireworks display, give the people of Ringwood. They clarified that certain matters had to be dealt with at the earlier meeting, due to time constraints. The Council wished to support the organisers of all events in the town and added that should they reconsider, any proposals for future events or requests for assistance would be considered on their own merits.

RESOLVED: That Ringwood Events Committee be invited to put forward further proposals for events in the town

ACTION T Simpson

OS/5663

LIGHTING AT THE PLACE

The Town Clerk reported that there had been no change to the number or specification of the required lights at The Place, in order to provide adequate safe lighting (as recommended by the Policy and Finance Committee and further discussed at the Trustees meeting on 29th March 2017 (*OS/5657 and F/5418 refers*)).

He had spoken with the District Council and funding may be available from Section 106 developers' contributions. As the proposal would provide lights around the footpath, the skate park and across the open space to the cricket pavilion, it was thought that the criteria would be met. The fees involved in taking the scheme forward would be £960 for the electrical engineer's design and installation and the architect's fee of £500 (plus VAT and disbursements).

RECOMMENDATION TO POLICY AND FINANCE COMMITTEE: That the scheme to provide lighting at The Place be supported and professional advisors be instructed.

ACTION T Simpson

OS/5664

GAZEBOS

Members were asked to consider whether to retain or dispose of five gazebos originally purchased to support events run by the Town Council. The Town Clerk detailed the officer time in retaining, storing and hiring out of the gazebos and indicated that traders at the antiques market had shown an interest in purchasing them. The remaining representatives of the Ringwood Events Committee had declined the opportunity to purchase the gazebos.

Some Members felt that it would be advantageous to retain the gazebos and offer them out to organisers of events for a nominal fee, however others did not agree and felt that this would be problematic and that events could be supported in other ways. Following further discussion and the casting vote of the Chairman it was:-

RESOLVED: That the five gazebos be offered for sale by the Town Clerk.

ACTION T Simpson

OS/5665

ELECTRICITY SUPPLY TO GROUNDSMEN SHEDS AT CARVERS

The Town Clerk reported Southern Electrics' (SSE) indication that the electricity supply poles and overhead wiring, along the southern edge of Carvers, were not in the best of conditions. They were not considered dangerous, however there was some work required to the private supply from Carvers Lane to the Ground staff sheds (*Annex C*).

He reported that a meeting and site visit was scheduled for 7th April, at which he hoped to ascertain SSE's concerns and investigate alternative solutions, for example, underground cabling from the cricket pavilion, and costings.

RESOLVED: That report (*Annex C*) be noted.

ACTION T Simpson

OS/5666

THE MOUNT, POULNER

The Town Clerk explained that a resident had suggested that The Mount be strip mown to allow natural meadow grasses and wild flowers to grow and the report (*Annex D*) had been prepared to assist Members in considering the arrangements for mowing in the light of this request.

Whilst it was not deemed appropriate for the main part of The Mount, Officers had looked at leaving a strip around the edge of the open space. The report had been forwarded to the resident and advised that it had been met with a positive response. It was agreed to trial the change to the grass cutting arrangements.

RESOLVED: That during 2017, Ground staff be permitted to vary the grass cutting arrangements on those parts of The Mount that are not ordinarily used by the public, in order to encourage natural meadow grasses and wild flowers to grow.

ACTION T Simpson

There being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 8.37pm.

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

RECEIVED
26th April 2017

APPROVED
3rd May 2017

TOWN MAYOR

COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN

Report for the Trustees of The Place

29th March 2017

Jenny Critchlow – Youth Co-Ordinator

Update

Since the first week in March we have had just short of one hundred different individual young people access The Place. We have had a very warm welcome back from all young people. There have been questions about why we cannot let them smoke and use their vapes in the building and also about why we need to keep a record of who has been in.

The Building

- i The cubicles in the girls toilets have had some damage which we only noticed a week or so ago. Someone has obviously fallen against the end section and it is so flimsy that it has come off it's mounting and moved this was only noticed when we tried to close and lock the door and it did not align.
- i There is a crack in the floor forming in the threshold between the main hall and the lobby to the toilets.
- i Lights outside and leading to The Place. The damaged lights give a very poor appearance to the building. (I do understand this is in the process of being addressed)

Equipment

- i The pool table has no keys and is in a very poor state of repair and cannot be used.
- i The table tennis table needs some wheel cups to stabilize it during play.
- i The docking station speakers had been damaged beyond repair during last summer. I brought in speakers which I had and during last week when I was off one of them has been blown and no longer works.
- i The toasting grills have damage to their non-stick surfaces and need replacing – they were used by the café to grill bacon and food was burnt onto them causing the damage.

Staff

- i Simon and Jo have made a very positive start and they ran a session last week whilst I was away.
- i We need to source some effective safeguarding training. Sexual health training and substance misuse training.
- i Maddi and I attended a sexual health update conference on the 23rd March.

A (i)

- i We have been very fortunate to have two students who are studying for degrees in theology and youth & community, from Moorlands college for their community placement.

Future work

- i During the summer we feel it is important to keep continuity and to open for young people at the times they are familiar with as experience shows putting on daytime activities are not well attended.
- i **TUFF** - We would like to work with TUFF to offer activities for younger children who are the natural audience with their parents during the daytime in the summer. Jo, Simon and Maddi have expressed an interest in working for TUFF during this time as extra work to their Youth Work.
- i We would like to offer support to young people through the summer from specialist support around substance misuse and sexual health. From Stacey Miller consultancy alongside our own staff.
- i **Young Carers** – would like to offer sessions from The Place for their young people on a regular basis possibly monthly at first.
- i **New Forest Autistic association** – Would like to offer a session to their young people monthly and also have a support group for parents monthly. I have offered them a taster session for the parents on the 5th April.
- i **Ringwood Home educating group** – would like to be able to use the place for group socialising and gets together for parents and children and would love to be able to have use of the main space and kitchen but as they have little funding they would settle for use of the toilets.
- i **Churches Together** – the churches are working towards providing a session for young people at The Place on a Thursday evening.
- i **Sexual Health Clinic** – I am at the moment having trouble making contact with the lead person for the young people's sexual health clinic. This I found out last week is because they have been going through a tendering process yet again for contracts and the new service is being rolled out from 1st April.
- i **CAMHS** – as above it has been difficult to make contact at the moment.

Ringwood School

I had a positive meeting with the head of Ringwood school who really wants to work with us in an effective way. The outcomes of the meeting were as follows.

- i The school will hold a non-uniform day and the funds raised can be put towards signage, blinds or notice boards for the interior of the building.
- i There was a commitment to support and pay for a pop-up café in the Easter break if we can get it organised in time.
- i We agreed to support an intergenerational project at The Place.
- i We have a mutual understanding of the difficulties young men in particular face when leaving school and we want to work towards a transitional project

to work on lifeskills and team building fun to establish that support is available at The Place when school is over.

- i We will work together to establish a young people's steering group to advocate for their peer group their needs and offer ideas to both the council and the Trustees on a regular basis.
- i The school have a copy of a game that I produced to support young men and their communication. The school will look to update it and use it with hard to reach young people.
- i The school are considering how they can help us to enable young people to use the PA equipment which we have at The Place.
- i The school publicity manager will promote The Place and offer space in their publications for news and up and coming events.

Café Provision

- i I have been in touch with pantry partnership in Salisbury who can offer with our support a pop-up café in the Easter break. They offer community cafes using surplus or wonky veg from supermarkets. The food is vegetarian and wholesome (www.pantrypartnership.org)
- i I believe and am fully supported by the school that we need to be offering positive healthy choices for young people and the community.
- i During the summer holidays and other school breaks we need to be supporting young people who normally qualify for free school meals to have access to nutritious food.
- i I think that we could be looking to provide a café provision between 10am and 2pm daily but there must be tight controls over what is offered as the café needs to comply with the ethos of supporting young people in their transitions to healthy, positive adulthood and members of the community.

Events – Family fun day – We are hoping to offer some taster interesting craft opportunities inside The Place on this day and also promote what we offer. Having information on display about different groups for young people to be involved with.

Meeting with Leanne Symonds Ringwood School 8th March 2017

Items discussed

1. Discussion about the community and background to youth work in the town.
2. Understanding of what we are hoping to enable young people to achieve.
3. School use of The Place and student access.
4. Vision of what The Place should be delivering.
5. Practical things needed at The Place.
6. How we can support young people in partnership working.

Outcomes from discussion

1. There was a recognition of the unique feel about Ringwood and it's community and environment. Isolation of young people, vulnerable families etc...
2. There was a discussion around young people and the fact that some of them do not eat at all well and that the knock on effect of that is erratic mood, lack of ability to concentrate and irritability in the short term and massive health impacts which effect life chances in the long term. We talked about the need to have the basic needs of warmth, food and shelter met before you can move on to learning in any way. Our responsibility towards young people to enable them to make positive choices about their wellbeing. Food and nourishment being paramount. Leanne said that at the moment they were aiming to get funding to establish 3 more food tech teaching areas as at the moment they only have one in the school.

I talked about the pop-up café possibility with pantry partnerships. Leanne agreed that the school would fund a pilot café in the Easter holidays.

We talked about the use of new psychoactive substances by young people and the suicides which have happened locally in young men.

The school would welcome working with us to establish a group to work on lifeskills to enable them to transition from school and have the place to return to for support when needed. This group would meet over three weeks doing team building outdoor activities mixed with learning about sexual health and raising awareness around substance misuse while all the time building self-esteem.

A (i)

3. The students need access in a targeted way. Leanne was very keen to support the intergenerational project to support elderly people with early Alzheimer's. the practicalities of this project will need more thinking about to fit with the curriculum of students. We also talked about the setting up of a steering group of students for The Place where ideas can be floated and then a representative can put forward the ideas to the council or trustees. Leanne will help take this forward.
4. Leanne and I have a clear understanding and shared view of how The Place should be supporting young people in their transition to adulthood through informal education, continuity of boundary setting and building positive relationships.
5. I told Leanne that we have a need for blinds in the main space to enable specific groups to use The Place without feeling vulnerable and being in a goldfish bowl environment. I also said that we had no signage showing the passing public what we are and what we do or to let young people know what is happening and when. Inside the building I said we had no notice boards to signpost young people or give information. Leanne said that they would hold a non-uniform day before the end of the summer term and give us the proceeds which may be up to £1200.
6. See point 2.

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE TRUSTEES OF THE PLACE

Held on Wednesday 29TH March 2017 at 5.00pm

PRESENT: Cllr Jeremy Heron (Chairman)
Cllr Andy Briers
Cllr Philip Day
Cllr Michael Thierry
Cllr Angela Wiseman
Rae Frederick
Graham Hastie
Kevin Jones

IN ATTENDANCE: Terry Simpson, Town Clerk
Jenny Critchlow, Youth Coordinator

TP/1 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

AGREED: That the minutes of the Meeting held on 6th September 2016 having been circulated, be approved and signed as a correct record.

TP/2 CLEANING ARRANGEMENTS

The Town Clerk reported that as a result of difficulties with respect to cleaning of The Place changes had been implemented and the standard of cleanliness had improved to a very high standard. The contract for window cleaning would be terminated as this work could be carried out by groundstaff. Councillor Heron had agreed to fund new floor cleaning equipment from his District Councillors community allowance and once this was on site the contract for the monthly floor cleaning could be cancelled and the work carried out in house.

The Youth Coordinator confirmed that the standard of cleaning now achieved was of the highest order and she was very pleased with the new arrangements.

AGREED: That the action taken to change the cleaning arrangements at The Place be approved.

ACTION Jo Hurd/Kelvin Wentworth
--

TP/2 YOUTH COORDINATORS REPORTS

a Report submitted to Recreation, Leisure and Open Spaces Committee

The Trustees received the report previously submitted to the Town Councils Recreation, Leisure and Open Spaces Committee on 1st March 2017 and an extract from the minutes of that meeting.

AGREED: That the report and the minutes be received and agreed

A (ii)

b Report of Meeting with Leanne Symonds, Head Teacher, Ringwood School

In presenting her report the Youth Coordinator explained that she had had a very good meeting with the Head Teacher of the school. They had discussed particularly the effect of a poor diet on students' performance at school and the school had offered to provide some funding for a 'pop up' café facility at The Place during the Easter holidays so that those young people who might not eat properly during the holiday could be supported. An initial offer from Pantrypartnership to operate a café in the period had proved to be too expensive. Members were of the view that the café should be provided directly by the Town Council so that it could ascertain the financial viability of such a project.

The head teacher had also confirmed her support for a course for young people leaving school, particularly males, to help them improve their living skills once out of school. Similarly she agreed to support an inter-generational project involving students from the school.

AGREED: That the report be received and the proposals contained therein be approved.

ACTION Jenny Critchlow

c Report to Trustees

The Trustees were pleased to note that more young people were using The Place. In response to questions the Youth Coordinator indicated that they were beginning to mix and that the core group were in the 14 to 17 age band although some were outside these ages. A small number could be termed as needy and they attended most sessions whilst others came less often.

It had been hoped that the Head would agree to open the gate from the school to Carvers but in view of the number of exits from the school the Head Teacher would not, for security reasons, agree to this gate being opened.

Trustees discussed further the need for a Café facility and the means by which it could be provided particularly in the first instance for the Easter holidays. Parents with children at the Play Park found the café useful last year and there was also the need to provide support for some young people. The Chairman reaffirmed his view that the café should be operated by staff directly employed by the Town Council and under the management control of the Youth Coordinator. Whilst he would wish to see the building open from early morning to late evening this was not possible at present and it should be open for as long each day as the Council could fund, possibly between 10.30 and 3.00pm each day when there is more activity on Carvers and the Play Area. In view of the closeness of the Easter holidays it was suggested that schools in the Town should be approached to ascertain whether their staff would be interested in taking up a short term appointment to cover the holiday period.

It was also noted that Hampshire County Council had ceased to provide Safeguarding training for anyone not employed by the County and the Youth Coordinator was having difficulty identifying an alternative training partner. Cllr Day indicated that the Institute of Licencing provided safeguarding training for District Council staff dealing with taxi licences and it may be able to assist. The Town Clerk also suggested that HALC might also be approached to ascertain whether it could provide training.

AGREED:

- i That the issues relating to the building, and equipment be noted and dealt with in line with the Council's practices for rectifying the issues identified;

- ii That the staffing matters be noted and investigations made to identify an alternative provider for safeguarding training;
- iii That the proposals for future work and outcome of discussions with Ringwood School be approved for consideration by the Town Council;
- iv That the Youth Coordinator investigates the direct provision of a café by the Town Council with a view to it being open initially through the Easter holidays

ACTION Jenny Critchlow

TP/3

LIGHTING AT THE PLACE

The Town Clerk reported that the Council had decided that it should proceed with the installation of lighting columns along the path from Southampton Road to The Place. These had been included in the original contract but removed when the project became overspent. He was attempting to fund the works from Developers contributions. Town Councillors had however questioned the need to install eleven columns and had hoped that far fewer would have been sufficient. Kevin Jones explained that the scheme had been prepared by electrical consultants to meet national standards which were not statutory but also took account of the tree canopies. He also indicated that as the underground works had been completed the reduction in the number of columns might not provide significant savings.

Trustees noted that the District Council's car parks had not been lit to those national standards because it was believed that they would create too much light pollution in a semi-rural area.

AGREED: That the Consultants be requested to review the scheme to determine whether it was necessary to install all of the eleven columns or whether a fewer number, which would not leave the Town Council open to injury claims for inadequate lighting, would suffice

ACTION Kevin Jones/Terry Simpson

TP/4

EXTERNAL LIGHTING ON THE PLACE

Trustees were advised that the external lighting on the building should have a high level of vandal protection. Lighting that should have met that criteria had been installed but unfortunately the level of vandalism was significantly more than would have been expected in this type of location. The lighting suppliers were sending a more vandal proof unit for consideration. In addition quotations had been obtained for LED units to be installed under the soffits. If these, and the new lighting columns are installed the continuing need for wall mounted lights could be reconsidered.

In response to an enquiry from Rae Fredericks it was noted that the District Councils pole mounted CCTV unit is not that demonstrated. There were however CCTV cameras installed at The Place.

AGREED:

- i. That the arrangements for replacement of the external lights and the installation of LED lighting be noted; and
- ii. That officers ensure that the correct signage is displayed indicating the use of CCTV inside and outside the building.

ACTION Kevin Jones/Jenny Critchlow/Terry Simpson

A (ii)

**TP/5
NEXT MEETING**

AGREED: That the next meeting be held in the Forest Suite at Ringwood Gateway at 6.00pm on Wednesday 26th July 2017 immediately before the Town Council meeting

There being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 6.25 pm.

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

APPROVED

CHAIRMAN
Date

RECREATION, LEISURE AND OPEN SPACES COMMITTEE – 1ST MARCH 2017**ARRANGEMENTS FOR ORGANISATION OF EVENTS IN RINGWOOD****1. INTRODUCTION**

As members are aware the Town Council has traditionally facilitated and supported events organised in the town by way of grant aid, free or reduced use costs of open spaces and buildings and also a limited amount of staff time which mostly has seen ground staff assist with the movement of stalls, etc.

In the more recent past office based staff have also undertaken a considerable amount of work in association with a relatively newly formed Ringwood Events Committee.

Ringwood Events Committee was formed as a vehicle to organise various events in the town. Whilst the Town Clerk served on the Committee, and was indeed its Chairman, he did so in a private capacity.

In 2016 the following events were held under the auspices of Ringwood Events Committee:-

- 25th June – Armed Forces day
- 4th November – Bonfire Night with fireworks and fair
- 3rd December – Christmas Lights Switch On

Between 2014 and June 2016 the following events were organised by Ringwood Town Council:-

- 6th December 2014 – Christmas Lights Switch On
- 6th December 2014 – Christmas Window Display Competition
- 27th June 2015 – Armed Forces Day
- 5th December 2016 – Christmas Lights Switch On
- 5th December 2016 – Christmas Window Display Competition
- 12th June 2016 – HM The Queen's 90th birthday street party. Organised with Churches Together in Ringwood. It incorporated an Italian Market outside the Gateway building, arranged by Ringwood Town Council. Ringwood Events Committee donated £300 towards this event.

In addition other residents organised the Fanfare for Spring, Carnival and the Pedal Car Grand Prix.

2. CURRENT SITUATION

Rae Frederick and Nicky Jowett, the remaining members of the Ringwood Events Committee, are in the process of reorganising the Committee and have met with your Chairman and Vice Chairman and the Chairman and Vice Chairman of Policy and Finance Committee. It is likely the Committee will be renamed as part of its reorganisation but for the purposes of this report it will continue to be referred to with its former title.

Whilst neither was responsible for the financial side of Ringwood Events Committee they do hold some financial records and have indicated that they would be prepared to

share these with the Chairman of Policy and Finance Committee. This would allow the Council to have a better understanding of income achieved at the events and also the amounts contributed by sponsors.

However they were aware that a substantial donation had been made to Fanfare for Spring and Christmas trees were provided for local schools.

3. PROPOSALS FOR THE FUTURE

In reforming an Events Committee the two ladies indicated that they would wish to continue organising a series of events in the town such as the Bonfire Night fireworks and the Christmas Lights Switch On. In the case of the latter it should be noted that the Town Council funds the lights and it is the event surrounding the switch on that was undertaken by Ringwood Events Committee in 2016. Obviously the street party event held in 2016 is not relevant this year, although it should be noted that the Town Council organised the Italian Market outside the Gateway as part of this event.

Ringwood Events Committee would not wish to organise the Armed Forces day celebration in 2017. In this connection it was suggested that whilst the first such event, held on the Bickerley in 2015 and organised by Ringwood Town Council, was a success this was not so successful when the Ringwood Events Committee held it at Carvers Recreation Ground in 2016.

Events organised by Ringwood Events Committee were on an entirely voluntary basis except for any support provided from within the Town Council's office. The Events Committee believe that if they are to take the initiative forward it would be necessary to pay themselves an income but continue to make donations to charitable organisations in the town.

As part of their programme the Events Committee would seek use of the Gateway Square for various types of markets, including continental markets, previously organised by Ringwood Town Council and held in the Market Place (one Italian Market and one French Market) on one weekend each month. This would have an effect on the Town Council's income as fees received in the past were paid direct to the Council.

The Council already has arrangements with a private operator for an Antiques and Decorative Arts Fair once a month held in the Gateway Square from March to December.

Whilst reasonable use of the Gateway Square for Markets and Fairs provides a centre of activity in the area, care has to be taken to ensure that such use does not interfere with weddings held in the Forest Suite. In the past there has been conflict and too frequent use of the Square will have an impact on the use of the Forest Suite as a quality wedding venue.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Unless the Town Council wishes to provide seed corn funding or make staffing resources available there be will no cost to the Council except that there might be the loss of opportunity income from use of the Gateway Square if no charge is made for its use.

5. CONCLUSIONS

An Events Committee will provide the opportunity for a continuous stream of events throughout the year at little or no cost to the Council. However many of the events may well be centred on the Gateway Square and care will need to be taken to ensure that the events do not conflict with weddings held at the Gateway or are contrary to members expectations for availability of that area as a general walk through area to Town.

Rae Frederick and Nicky Jowett have been invited to attend the meeting to explain their proposal more fully to members and also respond to any questions that members may wish to raise.

6. RECOMMENDATIONS

6.1 It is **recommended** that:-

- i having considered the information in this report and any further information by the Events Committee that the Committee determines on behalf of the Council the request for use of the Gateway Square for events; OR
- ii makes a recommendation to Council in relation to the requests outlined in this report;
- iii. consideration be given as to the level of fees, if any, to be charged for use of the Gateway Square; and
- iv. the Council be advised on whether consideration should be given to holding a celebration on Armed Forces Day in 2017.

For further information, contact:

Terry Simpson
Town Clerk
Tel: 01425 484720
terry.simpson@ringwood.gov.uk

RECREATION, LEISURE AND OPEN SPACES COMMITTEE – 5th April 2017
POWER SUPPLY TO EQUIPMENT WORKSHOP AT CARVERS

- 1** The power supply to the main workshops at Carvers is provided from overhead cables that connect to SSE's distribution network at the junction of Carvers Lane. At that location there is a meter box and an old power socket that appears to have been used by Carnival and others to provide a supply for events. There are similar power boxes on each of the poles along that boundary of Carvers. All of the boxes have been disconnected as they are old and need replacing if they are to be used.
- 2** It had been believed that the poles and overhead cabling is part of the main SSE network but the Company is suggesting that this is not the case and the public network ends where the Council's three phase supply connects to the network at Carvers Lane. SSE have now advised that following a recent inspection in the area the existing overhead cables and the poles will need to be replaced although they have not indicated that there is currently any problem in their continued use.
- 3** Further discussions are being held to ensure, without doubt, that the overhead supply along the southern boundary of Carvers is a private one. In addition it is necessary to more fully understand the basis of the comments made by SSE about the need to undertake any works because at least one of the poles was replaced in the recent past. It also seems that there is a power cable affixed to two of the poles that terminates in a private property and that needs further investigation.
- 4** It is expected that it will be possible to submit a more detailed report to the next meeting. On the basis that there will be a need to carry out works to the power supply to the workshops officers are looking at the cost of simply replacing the existing poles and overhead cables, but not as a three phase supply which is not needed, and also changing it to an underground supply. However that can only be achieved if members no longer wish to have any access to a power supply for events on that side of Carvers. Since it is many years since those supply boxes have been used this would appear to be an unnecessary expense.
- 5** A second option to provide an underground supply from the cricket pavilion to the workshops is also being investigated. This option would provide a shorter and therefore less costly supply route and will also enable the removal of the meter at Carvers Lane. This will remove one of the standing charges incurred for electricity supply at Carvers.
- 6** Since the power supply facility along the southern boundary of Carvers is no longer needed **it is recommended** that in the event that changes are required to the arrangements for provision of the electricity supply to the Council's workshops:

C

- i no provision be made for access to a power supply for events: and
- ii that a further report on costs of options for any replacement power supply be submitted to a future meeting of the Committee.

For further information please contact

Terry Simpson
Town Clerk
01425 473883
E-mail: terry.simpson@ringwood.gov.uk

RECREATION, LEISURE AND OPEN SPACES COMMITTEE – 5th April 2017
MAINTENANCE OF THE MOUNT OPEN SPACE

- 1 The Open Space at The Mount Open is maintained to a level to enable it to be used by children, those walking dogs and as a general open area. As the name suggests it is not flat and is in the form of a mound or dome and is bordered on three sides by residential development and on the fourth by a bridleway.
- 2 In line with the standards that have been applied for many years The Mount is cut 3/4 times per year to ensure it is to a suitable standard for its current use. It is not possible to cut the grass too short because the ground is generally uneven. This level of grass cutting allows the grass to grow to a reasonable height without concealing parts of the slopes where there are a number of hollows that require walkers to mind their step.
- 3 It has been suggested by a nearby resident that The Mount should be strip mown to allow natural meadow grasses and wild flowers to grow. This will allow more areas to become foraging and transit points for pollinators. On the face of it this suggestion has merit. However if this is implemented it will mean that there will be areas of long grass across a well-used open space which would interfere with the purpose for which it was provided.
- 4 Experience also shows that if the grass is allowed to grow too long those areas do become fouled by dog excrement. Put simply some dog owners allow their dogs to disappear into the long grass and the mess is not then picked up. That is a danger to young children who generally like to run through that type of grass area. If the grass is allowed to grow too long it will conceal the natural hollows which can cause some walkers and anyone running down the slope to fall.
- 5 Because the area is next to the open Forest there is an increased possibility of ticks being present in the longer grass.
- 6 Whilst being concerned about the proposal in relation to the main part of The Mount officers have looked at not cutting a strip around the edge of the open space to allow grasses and wild flowers to grow there. That would overcome most of the problems outlined earlier as users would tend to gravitate away from using those areas. This has been tried in the past because those areas are not easily accessible with machinery. Unfortunately that led to complaints from the owners of the properties bordering the open space and caused additional work later in the year as the brambles had also been allowed to grow.
- 7 Officers are very sympathetic to the proposal but for the reasons outlined above do not feel it would be appropriate to implement it on the main part of The Mount and it is **recommended** that during 2017 ground staff be permitted to vary the grass cutting arrangements on those parts of The Mount that are not ordinarily

D

used by the public in order to encourage natural meadow grasses and wild flowers to grow.

For further information please contact

Terry Simpson

Town Clerk

01425 473883

E-mail: terry.simpson@ringwood.gov.uk