

OPEN SESSION: There were 7 members of the public present who were interested in items on the agenda.

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

Held on Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2015 at 7.00pm

PRESENT: Cllr Andrew Briers (Chairman)  
Cllr Emma Blake (Vice-Chairman)  
Cllr Debee Deane  
Cllr Jacqui Terry  
Cllr Tim Ward  
Cllr Angela Wiseman

IN ATTENDANCE: Cllr Philip Day  
Cllr Chris Treleaven  
Mr Steve Nash, Town Clerk  
Mrs Jo Hurd, Deputy Town Clerk (until 7:45pm)  
Nicola Vodden, Meetings Administrator

### **OS/5553**

#### **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

No apologies for absence had been received.

### **OS/5554**

#### **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None were declared at this stage.

### **OS/5555**

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

**RESOLVED:** That the minutes of the Meeting held on 1<sup>st</sup> July 2015, having been circulated, be approved and signed as a correct record.

### **OS/5556**

#### **WESSEX WATER FLOOD ALLEVIATION SCHEME**

The Committee and other Councillors in attendance received a presentation from Bruce McAuslane, Project Manager for the Wessex Water Flood Alleviation Scheme.

He explained that this is Phase 1 of a staged programme, which will commence on 21<sup>st</sup> September 2015 and will see the installation of 2 x 1.2m diameter pipes along Bickerley Green, from the access road to Old Mill Flats to the pumping station, adjacent to the footpath.

The pipes will provide 550 cubic metres of storage, supporting the existing pumping station when it is unable to cope during periods of heavy rainfall and the hydraulics become overloaded. The anticipated end date for the works is the end of February 2016.

A temporary road will be constructed at the junction with Kingsbury's Lane in order to keep Bickerley Road open. Additional pipework will be installed in Kingsbury Lane, which will be closed for approximately 12 weeks. The entrance to Blynkbonnie Car Park during this period will be made 2-way. The footpath will remain open.

Wessex Water have undertaken to do what they can to minimize inconvenience and disruption and have asked that any particular issues are brought to their attention.

Phase 2 will involve investigations into the impact of these works on the hydraulics and at the pumping station, identifying the scope of work required to improve the capacity from Duck Island Lane to Hampshire Hatches and capacity at the treatment works.

Councillors were concerned that the planned residential development at Crow and commercial development in Ringwood had been taken into account in determining the scope of the works and Mr McAuslane agreed to report back to the Council on this point, although he did comment that the treatment works was on a “knife edge” in terms of capacity.

**RESOLVED:** That the presentation by Wessex Water be received

**OS/5557**

**GRANTS OBTAINED TOWARD TOWN COUNCIL ACTIVITIES**

The Town Clerk reported that two grants had been obtained by the Town Council. A grant of £3,000 had been received from Hampshire County Council to be used towards Christmas activities and a workshop at the Christmas Fair. The other grant of £8,360 had been received from The National Lottery, which would be used for additional equipment for ‘The Place’ and for additional training for youth workers.

Councillors congratulated the Town Clerk on obtaining the grants.

**RESOLVED:** That receipt of the grant of £3,000 from Hampshire County Council and the grant of £8,360 from The National Lottery be noted

<b>ACTION S NASH</b>
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**OS/5558**

**FIREWORK DISPLAY**

The Town Clerk declared an interest in this item as he is member of the Ringwood Events Committee.

He explained that the Ringwood Events Committee, which was set up to support organisers of local events, wanted to create an event of their own and were seeking approval from the Council to hold a fireworks display on Carvers Playing Field on 7<sup>th</sup> November. This years’ event would be funded with sponsorship from local businesses and a possible grant. The hope was that this would be an annual event, which would be self-sustaining in the future and any excess being disseminated to local good causes. The Committee agreed that Carvers Playing Field could be used for a Firework Display.

**RESOLVED:** That the use of Carvers Playing Field for a Firework Display be approved

<b>ACTION S NASH</b>
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**OS/5559**

**OLD RAILWAY LINE FOOTPATH AND COUNTRYSIDE ACCESS**

The Committee was asked to consider the Town Clerks’ report (*Annex A*), in relation to approaching land owners for their permission to open up parts of the old railway line from Pullman Business Park across Crow Lane and towards Burley, as a safer option for people wishing to further explore and enjoy the New Forest on foot, horse or bicycle.

Cllr Wiseman was supportive of this proposal, indicating that if this were possible, people could get into the forest without going on any roads at all and she was particularly concerned about Crow Hill and the road heading towards Charles Lane.

A member of the public, Miss Cheryl Kirkhope addressed members in relation to an accident that occurred with her horse in 2013, leaving her extremely anxious when using the roads now. She reinforced the point that opening up the old railway line would provide a safer alternative, as she currently has no choice but to use the road.

Mr Will Lycett addressed the Committee from a cyclist's viewpoint, stressing that this would be an asset to Ringwood and the New Forest on a local level, promoting cycling with the associated health benefits and would also bring more visitors in.

Mr Jeff Wickens commented that there had been a previous attempt to open up the railway line to the west in 2003 and the primary aim now should be to get the land owners support.

The Chairman proposed that the Committee give the Town Clerk permission to approach the land owners for their approval to open up the old railway line. Members were in agreement with the proposal.

**RESOLVED:** That the Town Clerk approach the land owners to seek their permission to open up parts of the old railway line from Pullman Business Park, across Crow and towards Burley.

<b>ACTION   S NASH</b>
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There being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 8:03 pm.

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

RECEIVED  
30<sup>th</sup> September 2015

APPROVED  
7<sup>th</sup> October 2015

TOWN MAYOR

COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN