

Minutes of the meeting of the OPEN SPACES & LEISURE COMMITTEE held in the Council Chamber, Town Council Offices, Bradbourne Vale Road, Sevenoaks on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> October at 7.00 pm.

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## **PRESENT**

Cllr R J Parry – Chairman  
Cllr J London – Vice Chairman

Cllr P Allen  
Cllr S Raikes  
Cllr M G Short

Cllr Towell  
Cllr Mrs P C Walshe  
(7)

### In Attendance:

Deputy Town Clerk  
Open Spaces & Cemetery Manager  
Committee Clerk  
Members of the press – 1  
Members of the public - 17

### Also present:

Cllrs Canet, Clayton (left 8.15pm), Eyre and Piper (arr 7:10pm, left at 8pm)

### Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Brigden and Mrs Dawson

### PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

Cllr Clayton, speaking as a member of the public, asked if the Town Council was intending to alter its strategic policy and revoke the tenancy of the Quakers Hall Allotments.

The Chairman stated there was no intention to terminate the tenancy. The Town Council is reviewing the assets and land holdings to evaluate how best to serve the people of Sevenoaks and therefore it was inappropriate to review the agreement at the present time.

14 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The following declarations of interest were received from members in respect of items of business included in the agenda for this meeting

Cllrs London and Parry, being Members of Kent County Council, stated they would reconsider matters to be discussed at this meeting at County level, taking into account all relevant evidence and representations at Kent County Council.

Cllr London declared a personal interest in any agenda items concerning the Kent Police Authority and Kent & Medway Fire and Rescue Authority.

Cllr London expressed a personal interest in any matters regarding the Sevenoaks Rugby Football Club

Cllr Parry declared a personal interest in any agenda items concerning the Kent & Medway Fire and Rescue Authority

Cllrs Allen, Mrs Canet and London declared a personal interest in Quakers Hall Allotments

Cllr Raikes declared a personal and prejudicial interest in street lighting and left the room during discussion and voting on this matter

15 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of the Open Spaces & Leisure Committee held on 6<sup>th</sup> July 2009 were received and signed as a true record.

16 STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS

The Statement of Accounts from 1 April to 30 September 2009 was received and noted.

17 DRAFT REVENUE ESTIMATES 2010/11 & ROLLING CAPITAL PROGRAMME

**i) It was RECOMMENDED that**

The draft revenue estimates 2010/11 and rolling capital programme be received and adopted subject to:-

Open Spaces – Sports Pitches – Staff recruitment for 2010/11 £600 being added

Greatness Cemetery – Staff recruitment for 2010/11 £350 being added

Also it was suggested that estimates and forecast be provided for the gym for 2011/12 and 2012/13

- ii) The property maintenance schedule be adopted
- iii) The proposed increased charges to the general charges be approved wef January 2010
- iv) The proposed increased charges to the Cemetery services be approved wef January 2010
- v) The proposed increased charges to the sports facilities be approved wef January 2010

18 OPEN SPACES & CEMETERY MANAGERS REPORT

The Open Spaces & Cemetery Manager's report was received and noted.

The Chairman wished Charlie Standen a happy retirement after 42 years service

It was noted that many compliments had been received concerning the summer hanging baskets in Sevenoaks

It was **RECOMMENDED that**

The cost of proposed flower troughs in the vicinity of the railway station be covered from the existing hanging basket budget or fully funding through sponsorship

19 STREET LIGHTING

An email from the Community Liaison Officer at Kent Highways concerning the missing streetlight in Dartford Road was received.

Further information concerning the lighting columns in this vicinity was received from Cllr Clayton. The columns in Dartford Road by the Vine are not cast iron as previously indicated by Kent Highways, but aluminium and were installed in 1998 as part of a programme funded by Sevenoaks District Council.

It was **RESOLVED that**

Kent Highway be asked to replace the column as soon as possible with one in keeping with the Conservation Area

20 QUAKERS HALL ALLOTMENTS

The report of the meeting held with the representatives of the Allotment Association was received and noted.

It was **RESOLVED that**

The Quakers Hall Allotment Association be asked to put forward a business plan which can then be discussed by the Town Council at a future meeting.

It would be inappropriate to consider any extension to the lease whilst the Town Council's assets are under review. However, the Town Council would look at any proposals put forward without prejudice.

It was **AGREED that**

A visit to Quakers Hall Allotments be arranged for Town Councillors

21 GREATNESS CEMETERY

A request from the Commonwealth War Graves Commission to take over the maintenance of the designated Military graves at Greatness Cemetery was considered

It was **RESOLVED that**

The offer be accepted in principle and further discussion be undertaken with the Commonwealth War Graves Commission concerning the methodology of maintaining the remaining three military war graves to the same standard

22 SALT BINS

The information received from Kent Highways was received and noted

23 RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB

A request from Sevenoaks Rugby Football Club concerning the lease was received and considered

It was **RESOLVED that**

The Town Council acts as loan guarantor subject to:-

- i). The Town Council being legally protected and the pavilion reverting to Town Council in the event of default.
- ii). All legal and professional fees be paid by Sevenoaks RFC

Cllr London requested a Recorded Vote [SO 11]

For

Cllr Allen

Cllr Short

Cllr Walshe

Against

Cllr Raikes

Abstained

Cllr London

Cllr Towell

24 SEVENOAKS TOWN COUNCIL NOTICE BOARDS

A report from the Town Warden concerning suitable locations for the erection of notice boards in the town was received and considered

It was **RESOLVED that**

Applications be made to place notice boards at the bus station and at the Stag Community Arts Centre

25 SEVENOAKS LAWN TENNIS CLUB

A letter from the Sevenoaks Lawn Tennis Club dated 9 September 2009 was received.

It was **RESOLVED that**

A letter of thanks be sent by the Chairman of the Open Spaces Committee

26 CURRENT MATTERS

The schedule of current matters was received and noted

It was **AGREED that**

A statistical report concerning graffiti be presented to the next meeting.

27 PRESS RELEASES

It was considered that the item concerning Quakers Hall Allotments was suitable for a press release

The Meeting closed at 8.30 pm

THE CHAIRMAN

The new CCTV equipment for Greatness Recreation area was examined by Councillors