

Minutes of the meeting of the OPEN SPACES & LEISURE COMMITTEE held in the Council Chamber, Town Council Offices, Bradbourne Vale Road, Sevenoaks on Monday 14 March 2011 at 7.00 pm.

PRESENT

Cllr R J Parry – Chairman
Cllr M G Short - Vice Chairman

Cllr A Eyre	Cllr P E Towell
Cllr R M C Hogarth	Cllr Mrs P C Walshe
Cllr Mrs M A London	Cllr S G Raikes (ex officio)

(8)

Also present:
Cllrs R L Piper

In Attendance:
Deputy Town Clerk
Open Spaces & Cemetery Manager
Committee Clerk
2 Members of the Public
Press

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies of absence were received from Cllrs J Brigden, J M Canet and the Chief Executive/Town Clerk

PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

Mr Robert Piper speaking as a member of the public, set out the Town Council's current position concerning the Sevenoaks Rugby Football Club lease negotiations. Mr Howard Pearl spoke on behalf of the Sevenoaks Rugby Football Club in connection with the lease negotiations with the Town Council. The Chairman of the Committee clarified the position. It was agreed that a meeting would be fixed for discussions as soon as possible.

342 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

Cllr Parry, being a Member of Kent County Council, stated he 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 Parry, being a Member of the Kent & Medway Fire and Rescue Authority, stated he would reconsider matters to be discussed by the Authority, taking into account all relevant evidence and representations.

Cllr R L Piper being a Member of Sevenoaks District Council stated that he would reconsider matters to be discussed at this meeting at District level, taking into account all relevant evidence and representations at Sevenoaks District Council.

343 DECLARATIONS OF LOBBYING

Cllrs Mrs London, Eyre, Short and Raikes declared a personal interest in items relating to Sevenoaks Rugby Football Club as they had been lobbied [Agenda Item Nos 5a and 8 refers].

344 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of the Open Spaces & Leisure Committee held on 13 December 2010 were signed as a true record.

345 STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS

The Statement of Accounts from 1 – 31 January 2011 was received and noted.

346 OPEN SPACES & CEMETERY MANAGER'S & TOWN WARDEN'S REPORT

a) The Open Spaces & Cemetery Manager's report was received and noted. The good working relations between the officers and PCSOs was noted.

It was RESOLVED that:

i) Knole Paddock/Raley Field

Pitch 3 be taken out of service two weeks earlier this season to allow for regeneration and to ensure the pitch is in good condition for the new season.

ii) Raley Car Park Tarmac Repairs

Monetary provision is rolled forward to the next financial year.

b) The Town Warden's report was received and noted.

347 RALEYS GYM

The report from Raleys Gym was received and considered.

It was RESOLVED that

- i. a further breakdown of the budget be submitted to the Open Spaces & Leisure Committee
- ii. the Gym co-ordinator be invited to the next meeting.

348 GREATNESS QUARRY

A letter dated 6 January 2011 received from Cory Environmental in response to the Town Councillor's letter regarding nuisance caused by the increase in the number of gulls in the Greatness area was noted.

It was RESOLVED that a letter be sent to Cory Environmental prior to the coming nesting season following reports since January that the number of gulls seem to be increasing with the request that gulls be deterred more vigorously.

349 CURRENT MATTERS

The report on current matters was received and noted.

It was RESOLVED that the next Community date be circulated to this Committee.

350 MILLPOND

A report from the Deputy Town Clerk together with the Sevenoaks District Council's forthcoming Cabinet Report to transfer the Mill Pond to the Town Council was received and considered.

It was RESOLVED that executive authority be given to the Chairman of the Open Spaces and Leisure committee, together with the Chairman of the Finance and General Purposes Committee and the Town Clerk to negotiate on behalf of the Town Council taking into account the following comments raised by the Committee:

- i. to obtain an engineers report concerning the efficiency of the proposed silt trap
- ii. any increased insurance premiums to cover liability
- iii. annual maintenance costs

351 PRESS RELEASE

It was considered that no items were appropriate for a press release.

The meeting closed at 8:22pm

Chairman