

Sevenoaks Town Council

Minutes of Open Spaces & Leisure Committee held on 15th February 2021 Livestreaming of meeting on YouTube unsuccessful

Meeting commenced: 19:00

Meeting Concluded: 20:30

Present:

Cllr Keith Bonin	Present	Cllr Roderick Hogarth (until 7.30 pm)	Present
Cllr Nick Busvine, OBE	Present	Cllr Lise Michaelides	Present
Cllr Sue Camp	Apologies	Cllr Tom Morris Brown	Present
Cllr Dr Meryllyn Canet, Chairman	Present	Cllr Richard Parry	Present
Cllr Andrew Eyre, Vice-Chairman	Present	Cllr Simon Raikes	Present
Cllr Victoria Granville-Baxter	Present		

In attendance: Cllr Tony Clayton, Cllr Mrs Parry (part of meeting), Cllr Robert Piper, Cllr Claire Shea, Town Clerk, Open Spaces & Cemetery Manager and Senior Committee Clerk

Representations received from Members of the Public

The following members of the public attended the Zoom meeting and addressed the Committee on the items shown:

Adam Bowman – Knole Paddock & Raleys Field Sports Pitches (See Minute 438.3 below)

Paul Lansdale – Sevenoaks Town Football Club Pavilion Proposal, Greatness Recreation Ground (See Minute 439 below)

431. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were submitted and received as noted above.

432. Requests for Dispensations

There were no requests for dispensations.

433. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interests.

434. Minutes of the Open Spaces & Leisure Committee on 9th November 2020

RESOLVED: To receive and sign the Minutes of the Open Spaces & Leisure Committee held on 9th November 2020 as a true record.

435. Open Spaces and Cemetery Manager's Report

The Committee received and noted the report of the Open Spaces and Cemetery Manager, which included an update on:

- Staff working arrangements
- Hedge planting at Brittain's Common
- Replacement of four dog waste bins
- Tree planting at the Bat & Ball Centre
- Progress with the installation of the new Mess Room at Greatness Cemetery, which would commence the following day.

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The Committee considered the proposal to install a new double gate from the Cemetery into Greatness Recreation Ground to provide staff with more suitable access for work vehicles. The gates would remain locked when not in use.

RESOLVED: That the Finance & General Purposes Committee be requested to approve the allocation of £2,000 from CIL funds to the installation of new gates between the Cemetery and Greatness Recreation Ground.

436. Statement of Accounts 1st to 31st January 2021

RESOLVED: To accept the Management Accounts 1st to 31st January 2021.

437. Allotments Report

The Committee received and noted the report of the Allotments Manager.

438. Sports Pitches

438.1 Vine Cricket ground

In September 2020 the Town Council agreed a grant of up to £16,000 towards the work needed to enable high level cricket to be played again on the Vine and to protect the heritage landscape important to the local community. The total project cost £25,000 with the balance being provided by Sevenoaks Cricket Club.

The Committee received a report updating on progress. The intention is to re-open to the public on Wednesday 31st March 2021. Publicity and arrangements relating to this will be subject to public health guidelines at the time. Additional signage will be provided recognising the Deed of Gift of the land for the purposes of cricket and for the Vine to be respected.

RESOLVED: That the report be received and noted,

438.2 Greatness Recreation Ground Football Pitch

The Committee noted the proposal by Sevenoaks Town Football Club to carry out additional maintenance work to one of the football pitches (shown in red on the plan attached to the committee report) at Greatness Recreation Ground.

RESOLVED: That approval be given in principle by Sevenoaks Town Council, as the landowner, for this work to proceed.

438.3 Knole Paddock and Raleys Field

It was noted that Sevenoaks Rugby Football Club (RFC) had raised concerns about the current conditions of the rugby pitches and had also commissioned a report indicating potential improvements and investment plan from the company who carried out previous intensive work five years ago.

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It was agreed that the Open Spaces Manager review options and proposals and continue discussions with SRFC. In particular, the sum the Rugby Club would contribute to the remedial works project to be ascertained.

RESOLVED: That the Finance & General Purposes Committee be asked to consider allocating £8,000 from CIL funds to improving the infrastructure of the sports pitches at Knole Paddock and Raleys Field.

438.4 Knole Paddock 3G Pitch

It was noted that the planning appeal submitted by the Town Council in respect of the proposed 3G Pitch at Knole Paddock had been dismissed by the Planning Inspector.

439. Sevenoaks Town Football Club (STFC) Pavilion Proposal, Greatness Recreation Ground

It was noted that Sevenoaks Town Football Club had submitted a planning application for a new pavilion at Greatness Recreation ground. The Town Council had not given a view on that application due to its financial interest.

Letters of representation received from Greatness Residents Association and concerns raised by the Open Spaces Manager were noted.

From the perspective of the owner/landlord and with a view to the management of the Greatness Recreation Ground, the Committee welcomed the proposals subject to further discussion regarding matters of detail raised.

RESOLVED: That authority be delegated to the Town Clerk and the Chairman of the Open Spaces and Leisure Committee to work with Sevenoaks Town Football Club to progress the proposal.

440. Sevenoaks In Bloom

The Committee received an update on the South & South East in Bloom competition 2021 and noted that this year's Britain in Bloom had been cancelled. The Town Council had however registered an interest in taking part in the RHS 2021 Community Digital Awards.

441. Raleys Car Park Permits

It was noted that applications had been invited for the 35 permits allocated by the Town Council at its Raleys Car Park for low paid retail workers. Closing date was 6th March 2021.

RESOLVED: that the Chairman of the Open Spaces & Leisure Committee and the Chairman of the Finance & General Purposes Committee review the applications.

442. KCC Notice of Intention to make an order to Temporarily Close Public Footpaths SU24 and SU30

The Committee received and noted the details of the temporary closure of Public Footpaths SU24 and SU30 for planned works.

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443. Current Matters

The updates on current matters were noted as set out below.

366VI	Vine & Cycle racks	<p><i>Cycle Planters to be planted up for spring for Bat & Ball Centre, outside Café on the Vine.</i></p> <p><i>Also working with KCC on potential location in the town centre.</i></p>
226	Anti-Litter Campaign	<p><i>The national spring clean for 2021 has been moved to 28th May – 13th June.</i></p> <p><i>STC will also be supporting the new Clean up the Community group who will be encouraging the public to be involved in litter picking over Easter.</i></p>
176/5 VI	Hillingdon Rise Green	<p>Leaflet drop to be arranged regarding parking on grass.</p> <p><i>Cllr's to canvas public about parking on the grass.</i></p>
176/5 VII	Tree Planting	<p>Open Spaces Manager to liaise with tarmac in relation to offer of trees.</p> <p>To produce a leaflet encouraging the public to sponsor or adopt a tree. <i>Awaiting recruitment of new Committee Clerk.</i></p>
352 (II) 11.11.2019	Greatness Cemetery Mess Room	<p>Install new building as energy efficient as possible.</p> <p>New building has been ordered and should arrive before Christmas. A new mess room will be of a higher security standard and will have full amenities.</p> <p><i>Delayed due to Lockdown, due to arrive February 2021.</i></p>
178	Friends of Greatness Cemetery	<p>The launch has been delayed due to Covid-19. The leaflet is completed and ready to go to print and we hope to launch later this year.</p> <p><i>Awaiting recruitment of new Committee Clerk.</i></p>
304 30.09.2019	Quaker Hall Allotments	<p>Install additional water pipes and water butts.</p> <p><i>Ongoing.</i></p>
503 17.02.2020	Greatness Football Pavilion Proposal	<p>Presentation to councillors took place 6.7.2020</p> <p><i>Football Club submitted planning application.</i></p>

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96 07.07.2020	St John's Toilets	Refurbishment to be progressed subject to landowners (SDC) permission. SDC granted permission "in principle".
217 (iv) 28.09.2020	Trees	John London and Mayor's oak to be replanted

444. PRESS RELEASE

It was agreed that the following press releases be issued

- The re-opening of the Vine Cricket ground to the public.
- Sevenoaks in Bloom
- Green Flag application
- Support for Sevenoaks Town Football Club pavilion proposal

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting.

Chairman **Dated**