

Minutes of the Greatness Recreation Ground Working Party meeting held at the Sevenoaks Town Council Chambers on 25th April 2024, 7:00pm.

In attendance:

Sevenoaks Town Council	Mayor Cllr Shea
Sevenoaks Town Council	Cllr Canet
Sevenoaks Town Council	Cllr Gustard substituting for Cllr Granville
Sevenoaks Town Council	Linda Larter MBE – Town Clerk
Sevenoaks Town Council	Nicholas Cave – Open Spaces & Cemetery Manager
Sevenoaks Town Council	Anna Rosinska -Open Spaces & Leisure Committee Clerk
Sevenoaks Football Club	Paul Lansdale- Chairman

1. Welcome and Election of Chair

The Town Clerk opened the first meeting and welcomed all in attendance. Cllr Shae was appointed as Chair; the vote was seconded by Cllr Gustard.

2. Apologies for Absence

Apologies from Cllr Granville who was substituted by Cllr Gustard.

3. Greatness Community Pavilion – Update

The working group received an update on the grant application to be submitted by the Football Foundation, due to high numbers of applications submitted the foundation has advised of delays. The chairman of the Sevenoaks Football Club has advised that other avenues and opportunities of funding are currently being explored. It has been estimated that the Club will be 3 months behind schedule on the construction of the new Pavilion.

4. Greatness Recreation Ground 2023 Public Survey

The Group received and discussed the precis and results of the Greatness Recreation Ground 2023 Public Survey. It was noted that the park's overall quality has improved over the years and that the park and facilities need to be catered for the whole community. Playground equipment that could be utilized and enjoyed by older children was noted.

It was noted that the automatic monitoring site for air pollutants owned by the SDC is to be shortly decommissioned, the group discussed potential uses for the space.

The group was reassured that the newly planted trees adjacent to the Greatness Park playground would not be affected by the proposed changes to the parking layout.

5. Potential uses of Existing Pavilion

The Group discussed potential uses of the existing pavilion and confirmed utilising the facility for multi-use would be more beneficial to the community. The group agreed that the decision on the specific usage of the existing pavilion will be made closer to the date of transfer of its ownership.

6. Play Area

The current location of the playground was discussed, and alternative locations were noted due to the proposed expansion of the adjacently located car park. The group noted the importance of children's safety and discussed the proposal of a smaller playground being located next to the existing pavilion. Visibility of the playground was also noted.

RESOLVED: To request a new copy of the ground plan to indicate presence of mini football pitches and potential to relocate play area to current Futsal area.

7. Recreation Ground & Dog Use

The group received comments from a concerned member of the public regarding dog behaviour and fouling. Potential dog walking rules and bans were discussed by the council as well as utilising areas of the park for potential off-lead dog spaces. It was noted that advice would be sought from the Sevenoaks District Council's Animal Welfare Officer and that notices would be placed at the park requesting that dogs are on leads during football training and events to increase safety.

The group noted that a complete dog walking ban at the park would be detrimental to dogs and their companions.

8. To Agree Items for Future Agendas

The following topics were brought forward as topics for future discussion:

- CCTV and Security at park.
- Flooding
- Events at park
- Artwork
- Railings at Cemetery

9. Press Release

No Press Release has been scheduled.

Meeting concluded at 8:30pm.