

**Sevenoaks Town Council**  
**Minutes of the Meeting of the Greatness Recreation Ground Working Group**  
**Held on 19<sup>th</sup> August 2024 at the Town Council Offices**

**Meeting Commenced:** 2.00 p.m.

**Meeting Concluded:** 3:04p.m.

**Present:** (Quorum minimum of 3 members)

Cllr Claire Shea ( <b>Chair</b> )	Present	Cllr Dr Meryl Canet (Member)	Present
Cllr Victoria Granville (Member)	Present	Cllr Chloe Gustard	Present

**Also in Attendance:**

Responsible Finance Officer / Deputy Town Clerk, Open Spaces and Cemetery Manager,  
 Planning Committee Clerk

**129. Apologies for Absence**

None.

**130. Requests for Dispensations**

There were no requests for dispensations.

**131. Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

**132. Minutes of the Greatness Recreation Ground Working Group held on 26<sup>th</sup> June 2024**

**RESOLVED:** To receive and agree the minutes of the Greatness Recreational Working Group held on the 26<sup>th</sup> June 2024 as a true record.

**133. Friends of Greatness Recreation Ground Promotion**

a) The promotional poster for the Friends of Greatness Recreation Ground was received and noted, with minor spelling amendment to correct “neighbors”. The poster to be advertised in Town Council noticeboards, and request to be made to the Communications Engagement Manager for it to be included in the upcoming Town Crier, if possible.

b) Cllr Shea summarised that the new Group’s purpose will be to engage the local community in any future plans affecting existing or new assets at Greatness Recreation Ground, in order to enhance the space.

c) It was **agreed** that the Group be set up at the next Greatness Recreation Ground Working Group meeting on **16<sup>th</sup> October 2024**, with potential for it to be incorporated into the Group’s meeting structure moving forwards. It was noted that this would be subject to prospective Members’ feedback however, as they may prefer evening meeting times.

d) In addition to the Town Council’s usual methods of advertisement, it was agreed that local residents, Youth Council members, and Football Club contacts should

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receive notification, as well as for Councillor members to reach out to any other relevant contacts with invitation.

**134. Potential relocation of Play Area**

- a) The Group received and noted a draft survey seeking views on the proposed relocation of the Play Area.
- b) The Responsible Finance Officer / Deputy Town Clerk reported that a funding application to aid in delivering the proposals had been made to the Community Ownership Fund for £240,000, however the process had been delayed due to local elections.
- c) Members considered that publication of the survey should be delayed until after outcome of the funding application had been received, and budget secured to deliver the project.
- d) It was agreed that consideration of the draft survey be deferred to the next Greatness Recreation Ground Working Group meeting on 16<sup>th</sup> October, in order to include update on potential funding, as well as to allow time for the emerging Friends of Greatness Recreation Ground to review and input on the proposals.

**135. Greatness Pavilion Update**

- a) The Responsible Finance Officer / Deputy Town Clerk reported that the tenders received for the new Greatness Pavilion were significantly over-budget, however on review of the tenders, it was noted that contractors had not tendered exclusively for Phase 1 of the project. This was being reviewed by the Football Club.
- b) Members were disappointed that the tender process had been delayed and queried what had been tendered for. It was agreed that Paul Lansdale be invited to the next meeting to provide an update on the project.
- c) Cllr Gustard requested that Sevenoaks District Council's Animal Welfare Officer be invited to the next meeting of the Working Group, as agreed in previous Minutes.

**136. Past and Forthcoming Events**

- a) It was noted that previous events had been very well attended and publicised.
- b) Cllr Dr Canet volunteered to bring copies of the Friends of Greatness Recreation Ground advertisement poster to the 22<sup>nd</sup> August *Wind in the Willows* performance.

**137. Greatness Recreation Ground Management Plan – Draft Review**

- a) The Open Spaces and Cemetery Manager reported that improved access to the gym equipment is often enquired about, however that erecting a path adjacent to the Football pitch would be difficult. He further advised that grass maintenance has

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been delayed, due to only two Open Spaces team members being able to operate the tractor. Recruitment for ground staff had so far been unsuccessful, with the two qualified team members doing the best they can to maintain all Town Council Open Spaces.

b) Members agreed that the Management Plan's Aims as per Section 5 could be reviewed once clarity is received on funding of the new Football Pavilion. Councillors discussed aspirations for more art installations, including a hand carved totem pole.

c) The Planning Committee Clerk proposed a number of minor amendments to grammar throughout the document, as well as recommending that data figures cited in Section 2 be updated if there is newer information. She also advised that the Woodland Trust offer free tree packs of up to 420 trees twice a year and suggested that this information could be added to Aim iii.

d) It was **agreed** that the updated management plan be noted, with the above amendments to be made.

e) Members proposed that potential projects of the emerging Friends of Greatness Recreation Ground be extracted from the Management Plan to create the scope of the Group – in particular from the Aims section, as well as review of proposals for the Play Area. It was **agreed** that the scope form part of the agenda papers for the next meeting on 16<sup>th</sup> October 2024.

**138. Dates of Future Meetings**

The following future meeting dates were noted:

Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> of October 2024: 2pm

Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> December 2024: 2pm

Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> February 2025: 2pm

Monday 28<sup>th</sup> April 2025: 2pm

**139. Press Release:**

None.

There being no further business the Chair closed the meeting.