

Minutes of the meeting of the Leisure Committee held in The Sportsman Meeting Room, Birchwood Leisure Centre, Longmead, Hatfield AL10 0AN on Wednesday 26th May 2010 at 7.30pm.

PRESENT: Councillor S. Atkinson (Chairman)
Councillor M. Clark (Vice Chairman in the Chair from item 11)
Councillor M. Alder
Councillor L. Clark
Councillor D. Kay
Councillor S. Laver-Walton

EX-OFFICIO MEMBER: Councillor G. Wiltshire
Councillor C. Juggins

OFFICERS: C. A. Lloyd (Town Clerk)
P. Widdicombe (Deputy Town Clerk)
M. Speddy (Leisure Services Manager)

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor H. Berry.

2. QUESTION TIME

There were no questions.

3. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 17th March 2010 were approved and signed by the Chairman.

4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

5. HATFIELD TOWN FOOTBALL CLUB WORKING GROUP

The minutes of the meeting held on 12 April 2010 were noted. The Council re-emphasised its commitment to supporting a sports ground in Hatfield.

6. ROE HILL FACILITIES AND SKATE PARK

Members noted the recent vandalism at Roe Hill with regret.

Members agreed to Roe Hill being the site for the proposed skate park. It was suggested that DOE Sport be requested to look at the rugby training site as the new 3G artificial sports surface with particular reference to the very poor drainage in that area.

Members requested that the Cricket Club remove their clutter from the changing rooms. The Leisure Services Manager undertook to ensure this happened.

RESOLVED that approvals and actions be agreed as detailed in the preamble to this minute.

(Action: Clerk / Leisure Services Manager)

7. BIG LOTTERY GRANT 2010/11

The £10,900 underspend was noted. Members advised that they did not wish to see the horse springer at Roe Hill replaced as there was sufficient provision still left on site.

Members asked that sites with the play boards be identified so that Members could see them in-situ if they so wished.

The Clerk was requested to ascertain whether the funding could be used at another site in the Hatfield Town Council area.

RESOLVED that the actions be agreed as detailed in the preamble to this minute.

8. GOAL POSTS – CENTENARY PARK

Members noted the report of officers. The Clerk advised that Park Leisure had quoted for goal posts at £3,238 plus VAT and delivery. The Chairman advised that Councillor K. Langley had sourced some cheaper goal posts and she would send the information to the Clerk.

It was RESOLVED that the Clerk be authorised to select the cheapest option following consultation with and agreement by the Chairman of the Committee and Councillor K. Langley, for submission for funding approval from the Resources and Policy Committee.

(Action: Clerk)

9. BIRCHWOOD LEISURE CENTRE'S 20TH BIRTHDAY

Members RESOLVED that;

- (i) A plaque be erected to commemorate the opening of the Centre by Sir Trevor Brooking; and
- (ii) Full celebrations be considered when the Centre is 25 years old.

(Action: Clerk)

10. TOWN TWINNING

Members noted the report of officers.

RESOLVED that;

- (i) the Clerk write to Zierikzee suggesting that twinning should continue with the Borough Council and Schouwen-Duiveland;
- (ii) Councillor K. Langley be requested to discuss twinning with Fullerton and Hertfordshire University in her Borough appointed position of Lead Member Town and Gown; and
- (iii) the Town Council do not commit to any further twinning until the cost of such a venture is better understood.

(Action: Clerk/Cllr K. Langley)

8.15pm Councillor S Atkinson vacated the Chair and left the meeting.

Councillor M. Clark, Vice Chairman in the Chair.

11. CAPITAL PURCHASES 2010/11

Members RESOLVED that the following be purchased;

Badminton nets and posts and weight supports - £1,330

Computer – One for a Leisure Duty Manager - £700. Technical Services Team Leader to be given Deputy Town Clerk's PC when a new one has been agreed and purchased for the Deputy Town Clerk.

Stihl Blowers, chainsaws and pole saw – £1955.75

(Action: Clerk)

12. FENCING BIRCHWOOD LEISURE CENTRE

Members considered the risk assessment on the slope at the rear of the building and RESOLVED that the Clerk bring quotes for fencing and skate board elements to a future meeting of the Committee.

(Action: Clerk)

13. LEMS FORD HALL ROOF REPLACEMENT

Members considered the quotes received and RESOLVED to RECOMMEND to the Resources and Policy Committee that Leary Brothers be selected as the Committee's preferred contractor subject to agreement on some elements to their quotation and £16,100 be used from the contingency budget to fund the work.

(Action: Clerk)

14. COMMUNITY LED PROBLEM SOLVING DE HAVILLAND ESTATE – THE GLASS HOUSE PROJECT

Members considered the quotation received. It was decided that the Council could not afford the training costs and Members RESOLVED that the Clerk discuss a way forward with Rev Nina Johnson and Jason Blight (de Havilland Youth Worker).

(Action: Clerk)

15. ACCIDENT – BORROW PIT PLAY AREA (ADJACENT TO QUEEN BEE COURT)

Members noted the unfortunate accident and subsequent RIDDOR report to the Health and Safety Executive. The Inspector's report was awaited.

16. BIRCHWOOD OPEN SPACE

Members RESOLVED that this item be considered in Part I of the meeting to ensure that the Council was seen to be as transparent about this issue as possible.

Research had been carried out in files from when Birchwood was built. One piece of information discovered was the correspondence relating to Mr. Hurley who was very much against the Council building Birchwood Leisure Centre. However his questioning did show that at the time the Town Clerk sought advice from the National Association of Local Councils, Hawkins Russell Jones solicitors and the District Auditor as well as the New Towns Commission

Following discussion with the Council's solicitor it had been agreed that she should prepare a brief for Counsel who had handled this type of case before. This was agreed with some reservations at the costs that use of Counsel might incur. This was weighed against the time that would be taken by the Council's solicitor researching a subject which was already well known to Counsel. Prices would be obtained before instructing Counsel.

A point which had come up when in discussion with Fields in Trust over a different matter, was the likelihood of the Charity Commission being able to help. The Council's solicitor was concerned that the Charity Commission wouldn't have time to help. Based on what Fields in Trust had told her regarding issues in the Charity Commission recently, she was able to advise with a considerable degree of certainty that they were unable to help in situations like this. They simply didn't have the staff at the moment to be able to assist in these circumstances and took the view that it really was up to the Charity to take the necessary advice in order to come up with the plan.

Members noted the report.

17. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

RESOLVED that the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business;

- (i) Bar and Café Trading Accounts
- (ii) FunZone

18. BAR AND CAFÉ TRADING ACCOUNTS

Members noted the report of officers.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

19. FUNZONE

Members noted the report of officers.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

Closure: 20:50

Chairman