

Minutes of the meeting of the Leisure Committee held in The Sportsman Meeting Room, Birchwood Leisure Centre, Longmead, Hatfield AL10 0AN on Wednesday 11th January 2012 at 7.30pm.

PRESENT: Councillor S. Laver-Walton – Vice Chairman in the Chair
Councillor M. Alder
Councillor D. Archer
Councillor S. Jones
Councillor G. Wiltshire

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS: Councillor L. Clark
Councillor M. Clark

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

77. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor C. Juggins and Councillor H. Morgan who were attending a Borough Planning Control Committee meeting.

78. QUESTION TIME

There were no questions.

79. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 9th November 2011 were approved and signed by the Chairman.

80. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

81. BIRCHWOOD LEISURE CENTRE WORKING GROUP

Members considered the minutes of the meeting held on 2 December 2011 where the feasibility of a new depot had been discussed.

RESOLVED that

1. Option 1 be the preferred site option subject to amendments to the plans to omit staff facilities (to be located in Changing Room 5) and reconfiguration of the workshop; and
2. The second site option be Option 5 (Option 1 but on the car boot side of the site);
3. The Clerk undertake all necessary discussions with the Scouts, Homes & Communities Agency and if necessary, Birchwood & de Havilland

- Grange Playing Fields Trust and the Charity Commission to obtain site usage approval;
4. A site visit to Aldenham Parish Council be arranged to see their new Depot building.

(Action: Clerk)

82. QUOTES FOR TREE WORKS

Members noted the proposed costs of tree works.

RESOLVED that;

Work at de Havilland Grange

- 1) Lavender Close to be completed by grounds staff.
- 2) Plantations – expenditure be approved not exceeding £520 subject to further quotes being obtained.

Roe Hill

- 1) No work be carried out to the sycamores rear of 15 Hillcrest as they remained below the skyline of trees adjacent to neighbouring properties following crown reduction work in 2010.

Newgate Street Village Play Area

- 1) Hard pollard the lime tree not exceeding £140.

(Action: Clerk)

83. BID FOR GROWING COMMUNITIES WORK – CORONATION GARDENS

Members noted the bid submitted by the Clerk.

Members considered that the Gardens were looking much better since the Council had taken over the site and commended the groundstaff on the improved quality of work there.

The Clerk was requested to follow up her application for Locality budget funding to County Councillor Clare Berry.

Members agreed that the shrubs and roses needed replacing in the Gardens and RESOLVED that the Clerk's bid be endorsed.

(Action: Clerk)

84. ACCESS ONTO COUNCIL LAND

Members noted the legal position of the Council regarding unauthorised gates onto Council land and RESOLVED that the Clerk start informing residents with unauthorised access from their properties onto Council land that it confers no right of way onto the land and that the Council cannot be held liable for breaches of security from its land onto the resident's land. The Clerk was requested to cover all Council owned sites including sites for which it was Trustee.

(Action: Clerk)

85. BONFIRES ON ALLOTMENTS – BREACH OF TENANCY AGREEMENT

Members considered the report of officers and noted the smoke nuisance caused by an allotment holder's bonfire.

RESOLVED that the allotment holder be advised that any further breaches of the Tenancy Agreement will result in termination of the tenancy.

(Action: Clerk)

86. BONFIRES ON ALLOTMENTS - POLICY

Members considered the matter of smoke on motorways, inappropriate material in the communal compost area and the Borough Council's increased level of household recycling.

RESOLVED that;

1. The Clerk ascertain the cost of providing a compost bin on each allotment;
2. Subject to provision of the above the communal compost area be removed and turned into more plots;
3. If 1. and 2. are implemented then Allotment holders be advised that no more bonfires can be held on the allotments and any non-compostable waste must be removed by them to a suitable alternative site.

(Action: Clerk)

The meeting adjourned at 19:50 to visit the FunZone and reconvened at 19:57.

87. FUNZONE

Members considered the three quotations received and the report prepared by M. Boyle.

RECOMMENDED to the Resources & Policy Committee that

1. The FunZone refurbishment contract be let to Clayton Playframes Ltd for £46,400 subject to references and checks;
2. A further £10,000 be used for improvements to the FunZone; and

3. The Deputy Town Clerk be delegated the authority to let the contract by April 2012 subject to consultation with the Leader of the Council.

(Action: Clerk)

88. BUDGET 2012/13

Members considered the draft budget for 2012/13. The positive trading accounts for the bars were noted.

RECOMMENDED to the Resources & Policy Committee that the draft budget 2012/13 and the fees and charges for 2012/13 be approved.

(Action: Deputy Town Clerk)

Closure: 20:16

Chairman