

Minutes of the meeting of the Leisure Committee held in The Sportsman Meeting Room, Birchwood Leisure Centre, Longmead, Hatfield AL10 0AN on Wednesday 25th May 2011 at 7.30pm.

PRESENT: Councillor C. Juggins - Chairman
Councillor S. Laver-Walton – Vice Chairman
Councillor S. Jones
Councillor H. Morgan
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)

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor M. Alder and Councillor D. Archer.

2. QUESTION TIME

Two residents spoke against the skate park at Roe Hill and one suggested a site adjacent to Oak View School, the Air Cadets' HQ and the car park in Woods Ave.

Members agreed to adjourn this item at the request of some local residents so that they could ask questions of the Committee following a decision on de Havilland Grange.

3. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 23rd March 2011 were approved and signed by the Chairman.

4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

5. DE HAVILLAND GRANGE MEADOW

Members considered the report. Councillor M. Clark, moved deferral of this item so that all Members of the Council had the opportunity to attend a site visit before making any decisions. Councillor L. Clark seconded the motion.

A member of the public interjected and requested that they be permitted to ask questions. This item then stood adjourned.

6. QUESTION TIME

Residents living adjacent to de Havilland Grange spoke against building a pavilion. Other comments were raised on the inappropriateness of non-organic improvements to the area (other than litter bins and a tarmac path) and the consultation process.

A representative from de Havilland Community Project spoke favourably of the consultation process and its suggested options.

7. DE HAVILLAND GRANGE MEADOW

Members considered the motion put by Councillor M. Clark and seconded by Cllr. L. Clark and RESOLVED that consideration of this item be deferred to enable all members of the Council to attend a site visit prior to making any decisions.

(Action: Clerk)

8. USE OF DE HAVILLAND GRANGE FOR SUMMER EVENTS

Members considered the request of de Havilland Community Project for use of the Grange on 3, 17 and 31 July. It was confirmed that appropriate public liability insurance and risk assessments would be in place prior to the events taking place.

RESOLVED that permission be granted.

9. DAFFODIL CLOSE PLAY AREA

Members noted the RoSPA Report dated October 2010 and noted the handyman's comments that all work could be carried out by him as part of day to day maintenance.

RESOLVED that the report be accepted and the land transferred to the Council's ownership.

10. SKATE PARK

Members considered the report of officers and noted that a new site had been suggested adjacent to Oak View School and the Air Cadet HQ in Wood Ave. Members noted that the Leisure Services Manager had now received 5 requests for a football pitch at Roe Hill in the 2011/12 season.

RESOLVED that

- (i) Roe Hill no longer be considered a suitable site for a skate park;
- (ii) Groundwork and Borough, and Town Council Officers attend a site visit on the site adjacent to Oak View School and the Air Cadet HQ to assess it as a potential site for a skate park; and

- (iii) The Town Clerk pursue installation of a floodlit MUGA for bookings (capable of being locked at all other times).

(Action: Clerk)

11. FENCING AT LEMS FORD

Members noted the various options and the landlord's refusal to permit a gate or similar in the fence at the lower end.

RESOLVED that the Council's contractor be engaged to erect a rabbit fence along all three sides of the field and a five foot fence along the boundary adjacent to the field with horses in.

(Action: Leisure Services Manager)

12. ALLOTMENT RENT

Members noted the report of officers. In view of the agents' response in requiring a rent review Members RESOLVED that the agreement be signed if the reviews are inflationary increases only.

(Action: Clerk)

13. CORRESPONDENCE FROM REVD A SMITH REGARDING ALLOTMENTS RENANCY AGREEMENT

Members considered the letter sent by Revd. Smith.

It was RESOLVED that

- (i) Revd. Smith's 12 months notice run from 13 October 2010 to 12 October 2011 when his new contract would come into being; and
- (ii) Revd. Smith's wife be thanked for her offer of help but the contract as circulated and drawn up by the Borough Council for use on their allotment sites continue to be used as the basis for the Town Council's site to ensure consistency across the Town's allotments.

(Action: Clerk)

14. BANK HOLIDAY OPENING

Members noted the proposed closure of Birchwood Leisure Centre on Monday 30 May, 29 August and Christmas and New Year. Members were aware that officers would accommodate requests from regular users whenever possible. The hard work of Leisure Centre staff during playscheme was acknowledged.

RESOLVED that the economic and staffing reasons for the closures were agreed and the closures approved.

15. REPLACEMENT DIVISION NET – BIRCHWOOD SPORTS HALL

Members noted the quotations received and RESOLVED that a new net be purchased and installed for £1,397.88.

(Action: Clerk)

16. LETTERS OF THANKS

Members noted the letters of thanks received from users of the Town Council's services.

(Action: Clerk)

17. NEWGATE STREET VILLAGE HALL COMMITTEE ACCOUNTS

Members noted the accounts as circulated

18. 2012 OLYMPICS

Members considered the report of officers and noted that to host the 10m marionette of Godiva and her tricyclists, Hatfield was being asked to provide overnight board and accommodation for 50 people and a safe store for the marionette.

The University had offered to store the marionette, however, accommodation during the Olympic event would be costly and difficult to find, if at all.

Members noted that an event in the Town Centre could be planned to send the marionette on her way to the Olympic site on Saturday 4 August 2012.

Various options were considered.

RESOLVED that Birchwood Leisure Centre be placed at the disposal of Imagineer Productions as accommodation for their team with a fish and chip supper and breakfast being provided in the Kids Funzone and the University be offered as safe accommodation for the marionette.

(Action: Clerk)

19. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

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

- (i) Birchwood Kitchen
- (ii) Nursery at Birchwood
- (iii) Bar Trading accounts

20. BIRCHWOOD KITCHEN

Members noted the report of officers and RESOLVED not to pursue the letting of the kitchen.

(Action: Deputy Clerk)

21. NURSERY AT BIRCHWOOD

Members considered a proposal for a children's nursery at Birchwood Leisure Centre. RESOLVED that the proposal be declined.

22. BAR TRADING ACCOUNTS

Members noted the Bar Trading Accounts. Officers were requested to look into the hall's licensed opening hours.

(Action: Leisure Services Manager)

Councillor M. Clark congratulated the Leisure Services Manager on the publicity for the Town Council on its vans as part of the marketing plan.

Closure: 20:55

Chairman