

Minutes of a Meeting of the Leisure Committee held at Newgate Street Village Hall, on Wednesday 8th March 2006 at 7:30pm.

PRESENT: COUNCILLOR P. O'BRIEN (CHAIRMAN)

COUNCILLORS: M. CLARK, MRS H LAMING,
G. WILTSHIRE

ALSO PRESENT: COUNCILLOR MRS. M. WHITE

OFFICERS PRESENT: P.C. CLARK (TOWN CLERK)
M. SPEDDY (LEISURE SERVICES MANAGER)

84. QUORUM

As the quorum for the Committee is 5 Councillors any recommendations in these Minutes are those of the Members present and not of the fully constituted Committee.

85. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Croft, Mrs L. Mendez and R. Smith.

86. MINUTES

Approval of the Minutes of the Meeting held on 23rd November 2005 and 18 January 2006 were deferred to the next Meeting.

87. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Wiltshire declared a personal interest in Agenda Item 5, Newgate Street Village Hall, as Vice-Chairman of Newgate Street Village Hall Committee.

88. FESTIVAL SUB-COMMITTEE

The Minutes of the meetings held on 23 January and 20 February 2006 were received.

89. NEWGATE STREET VILLAGE HALL

The Committee considered the report of the Town Clerk and noted the very satisfactory outcome of the works carried out by Leary Brothers. The Town Clerk was asked to convey the thanks of the Council to the Village Hall Committee and in particular to Mike Sutcliffe.

The Committee also noted that the Town Clerk had given approval for the Village Hall Committee to use the Playing Field for the May Fayre on Saturday 21 May.

90. ROE HILL HALL

- a) County Council proposals for an Adult Care Hub Building.

The Committee considered the report of the Town Clerk together with a letter dated 3 March 2006 from Lambert Smith Hampton who are acting for Hertfordshire County Council.

RECOMMENDED

- (i) That the term of the Lease be 25 Years subject to the provisions of the Landlord and Tenant Act 1954.
- (ii) That a rental of £2,000 per annum be sought.
- (iii) That discussions take place with the County Council as to the mutual benefits of paying some or all of the rent as a lump sum.
- (iv) That a maximum of 5 parking spaces be allowed and that a relative proportion of the cost of any future resurfacing of the car park be paid for by the County Council.
- (v) That if future demand for the use of the car park requires additional car parking the County Council must meet the cost of 5 spaces plus any additional spaces they have regularly needed.
- (vi) That reference be made in the Lease to the requirement to pay for the use of the playing fields for any organised activity that requires exclusive use of all or part of it.

- b) FENCING

It was agreed that this item be deferred to the next meeting of the Leisure Committee, to be held at Roe Hill Hall.

91. ALLOTMENTS

The Committee considered the report of the Town Clerk and noted the wording for the signs and that the lowest quotation for the replacement gates and gate-posts was from Mill Green Forge in the sum of £547.50.

92. THE DELL

The Committee noted the report of the Town Clerk.

93. LICENSING

The Committee noted the report of the Town Clerk.

94. NEW HOUSING DEVELOPMENTS

The Committee considered the report of the Town Clerk and noted that Bovis Homes hoped to transfer to the Town Council all but one of the public open spaces on the Aerodrome site by the summer.

The Committee also looked at photographs of the old “Airways Beacon” which had been suggested as a Public Work of Art for the site. Members of the Committee considered it to be too important a piece of the town’s history to be used for this purpose because of the risk of vandalism.

The Town Clerk then reported on the recent meeting of the Howe Dell School Building Steering Group.

RECOMMENDED

That the Council will only accept the Community Hall if it has a satisfactory lease and site management agreement with the County Council and that the management of the hall is the sole responsibility of the Town Council.

The Chairman then allowed, as an urgent item, the consideration of a request from Welwyn Hatfield Council that the Town Council accept the transfer from George Wimpey of Coronation Gardens, together with a commuted maintenance sum of approximately £34,000.

RECOMMENDED

That this be agreed to.

95. BIRCHWOOD EARLY CLOSURES

The Committee considered the proposals of the Leisure Services Manger

RECOMMENDED

That the proposals before the Committee be approved and that the Leisure Services Manager be authorised to deal with any issues regarding opening hours as needed.

96. ST ALBANS ROAD EAST

a) Tree Pruning

The Committee considered the report of the Town Clerk

RECOMMENDED

That the quotation from Gristwood and Toms in the sum of £2,210 be accepted.

- b) Old Toilet and Store

The Committee considered the report of the Town Clerk.

RECOMMENDED

That the entrance be bricked up by the Council's Staff

97. EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

RESOLVED

That the press and public be excluded from the remaining items as their presence would be prejudicial to the public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.

98. ROE HILL HALL

- a) Floor

The Committee considered the report of the Town Clerk.

RECOMMENDED

That the recommendations contained in the report be approved.

- b) Bar Refurbishment

The Committee considered the report of the Town Clerk and deferred a decision until the next meeting of the Committee.

99. BIRCHWOOD WORKING PARTY

The Committee received the Minutes of the meetings held on 20 February and 1 March 2006.

RESOLVED

That the Town Clerk bring the recommendations of the Committee to a Special Meeting of the Town Council to be held on Wednesday 15 March at 6.30pm.

100. BAR/CAFÉ TRADING ACCOUNTS

The Committee received the Trading Accounts for the period 1 April 2005 to 2 March 2006 were received.