

Minutes of a Meeting of the Leisure Committee held in the Council Offices, Kennelwood House, Town Centre, Hatfield on Wednesday 18th January 2006 at 7:30pm.

PRESENT: COUNCILLOR P. O'BRIEN (CHAIRMAN)

COUNCILLORS: MRS L. MENDEZ, R. SMITH,
G. WILTSHIRE

ALSO PRESENT: COUNCILLORS J. HAWKINS, MRS. M. WHITE

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

66. 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.

67. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Clark, Croft, Mrs Laming and Morgan.

68. MINUTES

Approval of the Minutes of the Meeting held on 23rd November 2005 was deferred to the next Meeting.

69. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Mrs Mendez declared a personal interest in Agenda Item 5, Allotments, as an Allotment holder and Councillor Wiltshire declared a personal interest in Agenda item 6, Newgate Street Village Hall, as Vice-Chairman of Newgate Street Village Committee.

70. ROE HILL HALL

The Committee received the Notes of the meeting of the Roe Hill Working Party held on 13th December 2005 and noted that there had been no response from the County Council to the Council's letter regarding the terms of the Lease. The Committee also received the details of the Planning Application submitted which was in accordance with what had been agreed at the meeting of the Working Party.

The Committee then considered the report of the Town Clerk regarding the impact of the closure of New Briars School and Briars Lane. The Leisure Services Manager

advised the Committee that children were still being brought by car to catch the bus, which was totally against the agreement between the Town and County Councils and the letter sent out to all parents. On Monday there had been 9 cars parked in Briars Lane.

RECOMMENDED

That the County Council be advised that unless cars were stopped the agreement would cease.

71. ALLOTMENTS

The Committee considered the report of the Town Clerk.

RECOMMENDED

That the following be purchased.

- (i) Two replacement gate posts at a cost of £95.00.
- (ii) Two replacement gates at a cost of £547.50.
- (iii) Two replacement signs at a cost of £240.00.

Councillor Wiltshire suggested that Clarkes of Walsham be contacted regarding gates and gateposts.

72. NEWGATE STREET VILLAGE HALL

The Town Clerk reported that the refurbishment work was well in hand. The Village Hall Committee had agreed to pay for improved sanitary ware and the sum of £183 had to be taken from contingency to replace the Fire Escape Door from the Stage to the Field.

The Committee then received and considered the Best Value Review.

RECOMMENDED

That the review be approved, including the recommendations, and that the views of the Village Hall Committee be sought.

The Committee also noted that Ponsbourne St Mary's School would be using the Tennis Courts for Netball.

73. THE DELL

The Committee considered the report of the Town Clerk.

RECOMMENDED

That 119.7 metres of 1.2 metre Bowtop fencing plus one kissing gate be purchased from Steelway Fensecure at an installed cost of £7,218.00 + VAT.

74. CAPITAL EXPENDITURE

The Committee received and noted the report of the Town Clerk.

75. BIRCHWOOD PLAYING FIELDS – T-MOBILE MAST

The Committee received and noted the report of the Town Clerk.

76. BUDGET 2006/2007

The Committee considered the Leisure items, including Fees and Charges, in the Draft Budget.

RECOMMENDED

That the Leisure Items, including Fees and Charges, contained in the Draft Budget for 2006/2007 be approved.

77. LICENCING

The Committee considered the report of the Town Clerk.

RECOMMENDED

That a variation to the Licence for Birchwood be sought, extending it to the Playing Field for up to 30 days per year.

78. PLANNING GAIN

The Committee considered a Consultation Paper regarding Planning Gain issued by the Government. Whilst the Committee was generally of the view that the existing system was preferable to that being proposed it was felt that a detailed response was needed. The Town Clerk was asked to circulate a draft response to all Members for their comments.

79. NEW HOUSING DEVELOPMENTS

The Chairman allowed this item to be considered as there had been some progress since the Agenda had been circulated.

The Town Clerk reported that work had begun on site for the new Howe Dell School and that a meeting of the Howe Dell Building Steering Group would be held on 1st February.

The Town Council had also been advised by Bovis Homes that they were ready to transfer to the Council the first four areas of Public Open Space. Bovis had been told that once the details of the legal transfer had been agreed by both the Council and its Solicitors and a satisfactory site inspection carried out the transfer could take place.

RECOMMENDED

That the Chairman of the Leisure Committee together with the Leader of the Council be authorised to sign any transfers on behalf of the Council, with the Chairman of the Resources and Policy Committee deputising if needed.

80. 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.

81. ROE HILL HALL FLOOR

The Committee considered the report of the Town Clerk who explained that due to a delay in meeting the Contractors no quotation for using vinyl in the Activity Room was available.

RECOMMENDED

That vinyl be used in both the main hall and the activity room and that a provision of £17,000 be made for this work.

82. BIRCHWOOD WORKING PARTY

The Town Clerk advised the Committee that a meeting of the Birchwood Working Party would be held on Monday 30 January.

83. BAR/CAFÉ TRADING ACCOUNTS

The Trading Accounts for the period 1 April 2005 to 21 December 2005 were received.