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SWANSCOMBE & GREENHITHE TOWN COUNCIL

Recreation, Leisure & Amenities Committee

Councillor K G Basson (Chairman)
Councillor P M Harman (Vice-Chairman)

Councillor Ms L M Hall
Councillor J M Harman
Councillor A Harvey
Councillor Mrs A R Harvey
Councillor J B Harvey
Councillor J A Hayes
Councillor Ms L C Howes
Councillor B R Parry
Councillor B E Read
Councillor P J Scanlan

To all other Councillors: For information only

A Meeting of the above Committee will be held on

Thursday 5 February 2015 at 7.00pm

at: The Council Offices, The Grove, Swanscombe, Kent, DA10 0GA.

Graham Blew
Town Clerk

Dated: 30 January 2015

AGENDA

1. To receive Apologies for Absence.
2. Substitutes.
3. Declarations of Interest in Items on the Agenda.

At the Chairman's discretion the meeting will be adjourned at this point to accept questions from the public.

4. Items as Deemed Urgent by the Chairman / matters arising from previous minutes and their position on the Agenda (for discussion/information only, not for decision).
5. To confirm the Minutes of the Meeting held on 27 November 2014 (*Town Council 18 December 2014*).
6. **SENIOR GROUNDSMAN/GARDENER'S REPORT (p).**

Please see the attached report.

Recommended: To discuss and advise accordingly.

7. **TOWN CLERK'S REPORT.**

7.1 **RECREATION FACILITY CHARGES 2015 – 2016 (p).**

Please find attached the proposed price increases; the Responsible Financial Officer (RFO) has increased them by 2.5% overall and rounded up to the nearest whole number, with the football, cricket, Cygnets and Craytots fees being frozen for this year and allotments have been increased by 10%, which was taken into account when agreeing the estimates (*Finance and General Purposes Committee 17 January 2015*).

Recommended: To advise of any changes to the suggested increases for 2015 – 2016 and to approve.

7.2 **SPRING VALE WOODED AREA (p).**

Further to minute 287/14-15 the works identified in the original survey of the top and bottom sections was completed on 12 January 2015. Members are asked to agree to the survey of the remaining middle section being undertaken as per the attached quotation.

Recommended: To agree to the survey of the remaining middle section being undertaken as per the attached quotation.

7.3 SAXON COURT CHILDENS PLAY AREA (p).

There are 6 signs advising that the area is a “No Dogs” zone. We have received complaints that some local residents are taking their dogs into the Saxon Court Children’s Play Area. As a first step the Parks Staff have discussed this with the individuals concerned, as this appeared not to have had an effect the attached letter was also sent to them. The recipient of the letter subsequently rang the Town Clerk and during the conversation they claimed to be a responsible dog owner although they did acknowledge that despite being fully aware of the signs they took their dog through the children’s play area.

Recommended: To discuss and advise accordingly.

7.4 UNAUTHORISED USE OF KNOCKHALL RECREATION GROUND (p).

Please see the attached report.

Recommended: To discuss and advise accordingly.

7.5 KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (KCC) CONSULTATION ON FUTURE DELIVERY OF LIBRARY, REGISTRATION AND ARCHIVE SERVICES IN KENT (p).

The KCC Cabinet Member for Community Services has advised that the attached public consultation will be running from 12 January 2015 to 8 April 2015. Details of the consultation can be viewed at www.kent.gov.uk/lraconsultation as well as in all Kent libraries and Registry Offices.

Recommended: To discuss and advise accordingly.

7.6 ALLSTAR ECOPOINT SCHEME (p).

The Town Council has been offered the opportunity of joining the attached scheme which enables members, for a small monthly fee, to capture the CO2 emissions from their vehicles and turn it in to new woodlands planted on their behalf.

Recommended: To discuss and advise accordingly.

7.7 REQUEST TO USE AREA OF SWANSCOMBE HERITAGE PARK (p).

The attached request to use part of the Swanscombe Heritage park for a 6 week Forest School programme for 3-4 year old children within the term time school calendar, has been received from the Deputy Manager, Springfield Lodge Nursery, Swanscombe.

Recommended: To discuss and advise accordingly.

7.8 “WE’RE WATCHING YOU” – DOCG FOULING CAMPAIGN (p).

Please find attached details regarding Keep Britain Tidy’s national dog fouling campaign. Members of the Anti-Social Behaviour & Crime Sub-Committee considered the information regarding the campaign and recommended that it be submitted to the Recreation Leisure and Amenities Committee for consideration. The campaign was originally launched in November 2014 and has proved to be very successful (46% success rate) and a fresh campaign is being launched on 16 March 2015. There are two packages available to the Town Council. One being aimed specifically for local authorities, whereby posters and notices are personalised with the Town Council’s logo and additional assistance being given on press releases and data capturing at a cost of £2250 and the other merely the purchase of posters and stickers for dog bins (detailed information is provided in the attachments).

* Please note that this expenditure has not been budgeted for.

Recommended: To discuss and advise accordingly.

7.9 EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC.

TO RESOLVE: That, under Section 100A (4) of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended), the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information.

7.10 CAFÉ AND CAFÉ WORKING GROUP – UPDATE (p).

The Café Working Group met on 22 January 2015 and the notes from that meeting are attached along with an update of the monthly taking comparison figures.

Recommended: To note.

7.11 PAVILION – UPDATE (p)

The Pavilion Working Group met on 15 January 2015 where the Town Clerk raised his concerns over several aspects of the facility. From this meeting the Town Clerk was asked to contact The Pavilion requesting that they supply Gas Safety Certificates for the appliances in the premises.

The Confidential Appendix is the response/communication received.

NB.

The Pavilion Working Group had previously scheduled to meet with the Pavilion on 19 February 2015.

Recommended: Members to discuss and make a decision on how they wish to proceed.

INFORMATION AVAILABLE IN THE OFFICE:

- Allotment and Leisure Gardens – Issue 4 2014.
- Celebrations (EllenorLions Hospices) – Autumn 2014.
- Southern Water – Water Resources & Drought Strategy.
- Wild Kent, Kent Wildlife Trust, winter 2014 – 2015.

Swanscombe and Greenhithe Town Council Website:
<http://www.swanscombeandgreenhithetc.kentparishes.gov.uk/>