

MINUTES of the MEETING of the RECREATION, LEISURE & AMENITIES COMMITTEE held at THE COUNCIL OFFICES, THE GROVE, SWANSCOMBE on THURSDAY 23 NOVEMBER 2017 at 7.00PM

PRESENT: Councillor P M Harman (Vice-Chairman in the Chair)
Councillor Mrs A E D Barham
Councillor Mrs S P Butterfill
Councillor Ms L M Cross
Councillor Ms L M Hall
Councillor Dr J M Harman (substituting for Councillor K G Basson)
Councillor Ms L C Howes
Councillor Mrs M B Kelly
Councillor R J Lees (substituting for Councillor B E Read)
Councillor D J Mote
Councillor A S Reach (substituting for Councillor B R Parry)
Councillor S J Ryan (substituting for Councillor J A Hayes)

ALSO PRESENT: Ann Duke – Walk Tall
Councillor P C Harris
Graham Blew - Town Clerk
Martin Harding – Assistant Town Clerk/RFO
Dan Usher – Senior Groundsman / Gardener

ABSENT: There were none

316/17-18. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors' K G Basson, J A Hayes, B R Parry and B E Read.

317/17-18. SUBSTITUTES.

Councillor Dr J M Harman substituted for Councillor K G Basson
Councillor R J Lees substituted for Councillor B E Read
Councillor A S Reach substituted for Councillor B R Parry
Councillor S J Ryan substituted for Councillor J A Hayes

318/17-18. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST IN ITEMS ON THE AGENDA.

Councillor R J Lees advised the Committee that he was a Trustee of Citizens Advice NWK who were a principal user of the Community Café located in the Old Fire Station Building (agenda item 7.4).

The Chairman gave the opportunity for the meeting to be adjourned at this point to accept questions from the public.

At this point Ann Duke detailed the request submitted by Walk Tall and responded to/clarified several points raised by members.

319/17-18. ITEMS DEEMED URGENT BY THE CHAIRMAN / MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES AND THEIR POSITION ON THE AGENDA.

There were none.

320/17-18. TO APPROVE AND SIGN THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 21 SEPTEMBER 2017.

Recommended: That the Minutes of the Meeting held on 21 September 2017 were approved and signed as a true record.

321/17-18. SENIOR GROUNDSMAN/GARDENERS REPORT.

The Senior Groundsman/Gardeners report updated members on the work undertaken, by the Parks Department and also the work planned for the future which included:

Swanscombe Park, Manor Park, Broomfield Park, Knockhall Park, Heritage Park, Saxon Court, Valley View, equipment and staff.

Members requested that their appreciation be recorded for all the work undertaken to keep the Town Councils open spaces to the high standards that they were.

Recommended: That the item be noted.

322/17-18. REPLACEMENT OF LIFT AT SWANSCOMBE LEISURE CENTRE - GCLL

The Head of Facility Management (GCLL) had submitted a request proposing the replacement of the existing outdated lift with a modern platform.

Recommended: That the request be agreed.

323/17-18. GANG MOWING.

Further to minutes 353/15-16 and 419/16-17, and in accordance with Financial Regulation 11.1 (iv) a continuation of the contract for gang mowing in 2018 had been signed.

Recommended: That, in accordance with Financial Regulation 11.1 (iv), the contract for gang mowing of the Town Councils areas for 2016 be approved.

324/17-18. FENCING AT KNOCKHALL CHANGING ROOMS.

The Financial Risk Assessment (FRA) Working Group meeting held on 2 May 2017 (subsequently endorsed at Finance and General Purposes Committee 15 June 2017, minute 59/17-18) had identified that funds were now available to complete the previously identified project to replace the existing mesh fencing running around the changing rooms at Knockhall Park.

Three companies had been approached to supply quotations for the work and members were requested to consider the two quotations that had been received.

Recommended: That quote B be selected to have the works undertaken.

325/17-18. OLD FIRE STATION BUILDING, CHURCH ROAD – ASSET OF COMMUNITY VALUE (DARTFORD BOROUGH COUNCIL)

Further to minute 518/14-15 the Policy & Projects Officer (DBC) had recently confirmed that the Town Councils application to have the Old Fire Station Building, Church Road included on their Asset of Community Value had been successful.

The List of Assets of Community Value on the DBC website showed that the Old Fire Station was the first, and only, asset to have been included on the list since it began in 2011.

Members thanked Councillor Ms L C Howes and the Town Clerk for the work undertaken on this project.

Recommended: That the item be noted.

326/17-18. REQUEST FROM THE PAVILION TO ERECT LIGHT WEIGHT ADVERTISING PANEL ON EXTERNAL SQUASH COURT WALL.

In accordance with 4.9.1 of the Lease the Pavilion had advised that they had been offered a 6' x 4' light weight advertising panel from a printers and had requested permission for them to erect this on the external wall of the squash courts to promote coming events and hall hire. They had also advised that the printers will be producing their posters.

The Town Clerk detailed a list of proposed conditions, were the council to agree to the request, which he had been liaising with the Pavilion about prior to the meeting.

Members agreed that the Pavilion should be responsible for obtaining and supplying the Town Council with, any planning permission required for the erection of the advertising panel.

Recommended: That the Town Clerk be delegated authority to agree to the request subject to the conditions detailed by the Town Clerk.

327/17-18. ESTIMATES FOR 2018 - 2019.

As Members were aware, Officers had begun work on the estimates for 2018 – 2019 earlier in the year and members had first been asked for any suggestions in July (minute 127/17-18), with an agreed deadline of 31 August 2017. Full Council had then considered the proposals submitted at its meeting on 12 October 2017 and finalised the suggestions / projects (minute 253/17-18).

The draft Annual Estimates 2018 – 2019 would need to be approved and endorsed by the full Council in January 2018 before setting the Council Tax Base for the 2018 – 2019 financial year.

Recommended: That the item be noted

328/17-18. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC.

MOVED BY Councillor R J Lees and seconded by Councillor Ms L C Howes;

RESOLVED:

That, pursuant to section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, that because of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted, the public and press leave the meeting during consideration of the following item(s).

No members of the press or public were present during discussion of the following items of business.

Councillor P C Harris left the chamber at this point.

329/17-18. CAFÉ WORKING GROUP – UPDATE.

Members considered the confidential update, confidential notes and recommendations of the Working Group meeting held on 5 October 2017.

The RFO tabled some additional information regarding the changes to income and expenditure for the café over the last two financial years.

Recommended: That the item be noted and the recommendations from the Working Group meeting on 5 October 2017 be endorsed.

330/17-18. **REQUEST FROM WALK TALL.**

Members considered the request and after lengthy debate it was agreed:

Recommended:

1. That the request be agreed subject to satisfactory terms, set out by the Committee, being agreed by Walk Tall.
2. That a grant be awarded to Walk Tall, under Section 137 (3) of the Local Government Act 1972 to cover the costs, set out by the terms of the agreement, relating to storage.

There being no further business to transact, the Meeting closed at 8.25 pm

Signed: _____ Date: _____
(Chairman)