

MINUTES of the MEETING of the RECREATION, LEISURE & AMENITIES COMMITTEE held at THE COUNCIL OFFICES, THE GROVE, SWANSCOMBE on TUESDAY 20 JULY 2021 at 7.00PM

PRESENT: Councillor Peter Harman - Chairman
Councillor Anita Barham
Councillor Ann Duke
Councillor Linda Hall
Councillor John Hayes
Councillor Lesley Howes

ALSO PRESENT: Graham Blew – Town Clerk
Martin Harding – Assistant Town Clerk/RFO

ABSENT: There were none

120/21-22. **ARRANGEMENTS AND CONSTRAINTS REGARDING FILMING OR RECORDING THE MEETING.**

The arrangements and constraints relating to the filming or recording of the meeting were explained.

121/21-22. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.**

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Emma Ben Moussa, due to other commitments.

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Lorna Cross, due to other commitments.

An apology for lateness was also received from Councillor Ann Duke.

An apology for absence was received from the Senior Groundsman Gardener, due to medical reasons.

RESOLVED:

That the reasons for absence, for the above Town Councillors, be formally accepted and approved.

122/21-22. **SUBSTITUTES.**

There were none.

123/21-22. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST IN ITEMS ON THE AGENDA.**

Councillor Linda Hall declared a prejudicial interest in agenda item 7.3, Allotment Update, as she is the Chairman of the Swanscombe and Greenhithe Allotment & Garden Association.

Councillor Ann Duke declared a prejudicial interest in agenda item 10, Grove Hall, as she is the Chief Executive Officer of Walk Tall.

As per Standing Order 34 c) the Chairman adjourned the meeting at this point to allow members of the public to address the meeting in relation to the business being transacted at the meeting.

124/21-22. ITEMS DEEMED URGENT BY THE CHAIRMAN / MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES AND THEIR POSITION ON THE AGENDA.

There were none.

125/21-22. TO APPROVE AND SIGN THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 19 MARCH 2020.

Recommended: That the Minutes of the Meeting held on 19 March 2020 were approved and signed as a true record.

126/21-22. SENIOR GROUNDSMAN /GARDENER'S REPORT.

Members were provided with a copy of the report which updated members on the work undertaken, by the Parks Department and the work planned for the future which included:

Broomfield Park, Heritage Park, Knockhall Park, Swanscombe Park, Saxon Court, Valley View and Equipment.

Recommended: That the report be noted.

TOWN CLERK AND RESPONSIBLE FINANCIAL OFFICER'S REPORT.

127/21-22. RIDE-ON MOWER.

Further to the previous item members were asked to agree to the purchase of a replacement ride-on mower. This would be either brand new or second hand depending on availability and suitability.

The current broken ride-on was purchased brand new in early 2015 at a cost of £5,703.00. The last repair undertaken on this machine was in October 2020 and cost approximately £1,500.00 and the latest fault is known to have a large cost to it for repair, if the repair is even possible.

The value of a replacement would be between £3,000 and £9,000, suitable funds for this expenditure have been built up in the vehicle and equipment's budgets contained within the Financial Risk Assessments (FRA).

Recommended: That the replacement of the ride-on mower as detailed above be approved.

128/21-22. HERITAGE PARK UPDATE.

Members considered the update report which included: Pond Liner, Fencing & Gate, Planting and Decking and Seating.

Recommended: That the contents of the update report be noted.

129/21-22. ALLOTMENTS UPDATE

Members were informed that the annual allotment site visits between officers/members and the Allotment Association have been scheduled for Thursday 19 August 2021.

Recommended: That the item be noted.

130/21-22. ELECTRIC VEHICLE CHARGING POINTS UPDATE.

A verbal update was provided for members which advised that a delay had occurred with the installation of the charging points due to a third-party company needing to install the electricity meter in the system.

Recommended: That the update be noted.

131/21-22. DELEGATION TO CONDUCT NORMAL BUSINESS DURING RECESS PERIOD.

Members were requested to delegate authority to the Town Clerk, in accordance with section 101 (1) (a) of the Local Government Act 1972, to conduct the normal business of the Council during the recess period. The Town Clerk would consult with the Town Mayor, if appropriate, before any business is transacted. If any emergencies do occur during this time the Executive & Emergency Committee would be convened.

Recommended: That, in accordance with section 101 (1) (a) of the Local Government Act 1972 the Town Clerk be delegated authority to conduct the normal business of the Council during the recess period.

132/21-22. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC.

MOVED BY Councillor John Hayes and seconded by Councillor Anita Barham;

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.

133/21-22. **GROVE HALL.**

After discussing the contents of the confidential report, it was proposed, seconded, and duly agreed that, rather than proceed with the proposal contained in the report the suggestion provided by the Parks Department be used.

Recommended: That the Town Clerk implement the suggestion put forward from the Parks Department.

There being no further business to transact the Meeting closed at 7.35 pm.

Signed: _____ Date: _____
(Chairman)

