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# SWANSCOMBE & GREENHITHE TOWN COUNCIL

## Recreation, Leisure & Amenities Committee

Councillor Peter Harman - Chairman  
Councillor Emma Ben Moussa - Vice-Chairman  
Councillor Anita Barham  
Councillor Lorna Cross  
Councillor Ann Duke  
Councillor Linda Hall  
Councillor John Hayes  
Councillor Lesley Howes

To all other Councillors: For information only

**A Meeting of the above Committee will be held on**

**Thursday 18 November 2021 at 7.00pm**

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

Graham Blew

Graham Blew  
Town Clerk

Dated: 12 November 2021

*Should any member have any questions regarding the content of the agenda or attached papers, please put them to the clerk's office 24 hours in advance of the meeting.*

## AGENDA

1. To receive Apologies for Absence (*Local Government Act 1972, s.85*).
2. Substitutes.
3. Declarations of Interest in Items on the Agenda (*Localism Act 2011, s.31*).
- \* ***As per Standing Order 34 c), and at the Chairman's discretion, the meeting will be adjourned at this point to allow any members of the public to address the meeting in relation to the business to be transacted at the meeting. Members of the public are allowed to (i) make representations, (ii) answer questions and (iii) give evidence relating to the business being transacted.***
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 of the Meeting held on 23 September 2021 (*full Council 7 October 2021*).  
(*Local Government Act 1972, Sch 12, Para 41(1)*).

### 6. **SENIOR GROUNDSMAN/GARDENER'S REPORT (p).**

Please see the attached report.

**Recommended:** That the report be noted.

### 7. **TOWN CLERK AND RESPONSIBLE FINANCIAL OFFICER'S REPORT.**

#### 7.1 **TREE WORKS – KNOCKHALL PARK, GREENHITHE (p).**

During August 2021 x2 large branches fell from the row of poplar trees at the rear of Knockhall Park bordering Craylands Gorge. On both occasions work was undertaken to remove the branches and make the site safe, neither branch fell during a period of high wind.

Due to the nature of these incidents the Town Council has had the entire row of trees in question assessed by our approved Tree Surgeon, see attached report.

This survey has identified that x3 trees require felling due to signs of internal decay. A further large branch is required to be removed to prevent additional damage. This work has been quoted to cost £4,800.00+VAT and is proposed to be funded from the tree survey money contained within the Financial Risk Assessments.

The Town Council have sought, and been provided with, a quotation to replace the x3 felled trees with x6 replacements. This would be at a cost of £2,250+VAT and is proposed to be funded from the £3,000 per year (over the next 5 years) allocated for replacement trees within the normal tree budget Cost Code 54

**Recommended:** To agree to the recommendation of the Town Councils approved Tree Surgeon for the tree works at Knockhall Park, including the sources of funding for these works and the expenditure to plant the replacements, as detailed.

## 7.2 NEW COMMUNITY SPACES – SWANSCOMBE PARK (p).

On the 21 October 2021 the previously agreed x6 trees were planted to begin a community orchard adjacent to the proposed new family picnic area. All x6 of these were planted either in dedication or sponsored.

Attached for consideration is a draft of a dedication plaque that will be installed on the old score board within the community orchard to signify who the trees are planted for.

In addition, work is ongoing to install the various new benches, bins, raised beds and panels within the community garden and family picnic area. Members are also provided, for consideration, draft signage to be placed in the entrance way to these new community spaces.

To reduce the chance of damage during the wet seasons Members are also asked to agree that the family picnic area, community garden and community orchard are opened in Spring 2022 when all planting will be in place and the areas ready to use.

**Recommended:**

1. To agree on the wording for the dedication plaque to be placed in the community orchard.
2. To agree on the names and wording for the signage to be placed on the new community spaces within Swanscombe Park.
3. To agree that the x3 new community spaces within Swanscombe Park are officially opened in Spring 2022.

### 7.3. DISPOSAL OF TOWN COUNCIL ASSET – TRACTOR (p).

In 2014 the Town Council purchased a new tractor for the Parks Department, which is currently stored within Broomfield Park. This was to replace the older model the Town Council had at that time.

From 2014 to the present the tractor has been used minimally for minor sports ground maintenance and preparation.

The vehicle is currently valued at between £9,000 and £12,000 sold as second hand.

Members are asked to agree to the disposal of this vehicle should a suitable value be obtained and that the funds generated from any sale would then be put into the specialist equipment budget within the Finance Risk Assessment.

**Recommended:** That the sale of the tractor be agreed and delegated to the Town Clerk.

### 7.4 GANG MOWING.

Further to minute 166/20-21 and in accordance with Financial Regulation 11.1 (iv) (*and in consultation with the Town Mayor and Chairman of Finance and General Purposes Committee*), a continuation of the contract for gang mowing in 2022 has been signed.

**Recommended:** That, in accordance with Financial Regulation 11.1 (iv), the contract for gang mowing of the Town Councils areas for 2022 be approved.

### 7.5. SUGGESTIONS FOR 2022 - 2023 ESTIMATES.

Further to minute 223/21-22 (*full Council 7 October 2021*) any suggestions members may have for items to be considered for the 2022 - 23 Estimates need to be sent to the ATC/RFO by no later than 24 November 2021. This will enable items to be forecast and included on the agenda for the Full Council meeting on 9 December 2021, for further consideration.

**Recommended:** That the item be noted

### INFORMATION IN THE OFFICE.

- Allotment & Leisure Gardener – Issue 4, 2021



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

