

MINUTES of the MEETING of the RECREATION, LEISURE & AMENITIES COMMITTEE  
held at THE COUNCIL OFFICES, THE GROVE, SWANSCOMBE on WEDNESDAY 16  
MARCH 2022 at 7.00PM

**PRESENT:** Councillor Peter Harman - Chairman  
Councillor Lorna Cross  
Councillor Ann Duke  
Councillor Linda Hall  
Councillor Lesley Howes

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

**ABSENT:** There were none

454/21-22. **ARRANGEMENTS AND CONSTRAINTS REGARDING FILMING OR RECORDING THE MEETING.**

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

455/21-22. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.**

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Anita Barham, due to medical reasons.

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Emma Ben Moussa due to medical reasons.

An apology for absence was received from Councillor John Hayes due to medical reasons.

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.

456/21-22. **SUBSTITUTES.**

There were none.

457/21-22. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST IN ITEMS ON THE AGENDA.**

There were none.

***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.***

**458/21-22. ITEMS DEEMED URGENT BY THE CHAIRMAN / MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES AND THEIR POSITION ON THE AGENDA.**

There were none.

**459/21-22. TO APPROVE AND SIGN THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 27 JANUARY 2022.**

**Recommended:** That the Minutes of the Meeting held on 27 January 2022 were approved and signed as a true record.

**460/21-22. 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, Manor Park, Swanscombe Park, Saxon Court and Equipment.

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

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

**461/21-22. TREE FELLED – STORM EUNICE.**

Unfortunately, a large Cedar tree in Swanscombe Park had been badly damaged during Storm Eunice on 18 February 2022. A tree consultant investigated the damage and following his recommendations, and in consultation with the Town Mayor and the Chairman of Recreation, Leisure and Amenities Committee and with the appropriate Planning Authority permission, the tree was felled on 8 March 2022. Replacement trees (x2) will be sourced and planted in Swanscombe Park.

**Recommended:** That the actions taken by the Town Clerk in dealing with this matter be endorsed.

**462/21-22. PARKING AT KNOCKHALL ROAD.**

Members had asked that the issue of parking at Knockhall Road on the weekends be placed on the agenda for consideration. Members discussed the copies of correspondences received from residents since 11 October 2021 and it was agreed that no action was required at this time and that the issue be monitored.

**Recommended:** That no action be taken at this time and that the issue be monitored.

**463/21-22. CONTRACTS FOR SPORTS HIRERS.**

Members considered the draft contracts for sports hirers and after discussion it was agreed that they be adopted.

**Recommended:** That the draft contracts for sports hirers be agreed and adopted.

**464/21-22. FOOTBALL PITCH CONDITION REVIEW**

Members were asked to agree to review of the football pitches conditions at the culmination of the 2021 – 2022 season.

**Recommended:** That the football pitch condition review be agreed.

**465/21-22. ALL STAR ECOPOINT SCHEME.**

The Town Council had received this year's certificate confirming it had contributed 11 trees in 2021 which brought the Town Councils total, since joining the Scheme, to 104 trees.

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

**466/21-22. COMMUNITY AREAS IN SWANSCOMBE PARK.**

The Dartford Borough Council Planet Dartford Community Orchard had been planted on 24 February 2022 and the wildflowers were expected to be planted at the end of March.

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

**467/21-22. PROPOSED HANDRAIL AT ST PETER & ST PAULS CHURCH.**

The Town Clerk updated members on the previously agreed installation of a handrail (minute 390/21-22). It had been confirmed by both Kent County Council and Dartford Borough Council that the land was the responsibility of Kent Highway Services and that Kent Highway Services had agreed to add this to their work schedule.

**Recommended:** That the actions taken by the Town Clerk in dealing with this matter be endorsed and that the item be noted.

**468/21-22. FESTIVAL OF NATIONAL NATURE RESERVES (NNR).**

2022 would be the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the first NNR and Natural England were inviting organisations to take part in the 'Festival of National Nature Reserves' over the summer (May to September).

Members discussed what, if any, involvement the Town Council would have in the Festival of NNR, and it was agreed that Members seek independent details from organisations that may wish to run events in line with the Festival of NNR and that these be submitted to full council for endorsement.

**Recommended:** That Members seek independent details from organisations that may wish to run events in line with the Festival of NNR and that these be submitted to full council for endorsement.

469/21-22. **OUTDOOR CINEMA EVENTS.**

The Town Council recently ran an online survey to find out which times of day were most popular for the outdoor cinema event (new contractors' equipment enables daytime showings).

**Recommended:** That the x2 outdoor cinema events be held at 6.00pm

470/21-22. **SUMMER ENTERTAINMENT 2022.**

Members considered the calendar of activities that officers were currently preparing to deliver over the summer 2022 period. These included:

- Children's Summer Entertainment
- Summer of Sports – Taster Classes
- x2 Outdoor Cinema Events

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

471/21-22. **ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION PLAN WORKING GROUP – UPDATE.**

The Environmental Action Plan Working Group met on 3 March 2022 to discuss the Town Council undertaking the Kent Association of Local Councils (KALC) Carbon Footprint Calculator.

Members considered the notes of the 3 March 2022 Working Group meeting as well as the guidance on completing the Carbon Footprint Calculator.

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

472/21-22. **PUBLIC TOILETS WORKING GROUP – UPDATE.**

Members considered the notes of the 3 March 2022 Working Group meeting.

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

There being no further business to transact the Meeting closed at 8.05 pm.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Chairman)