

MINUTES of the MEETING of the RECREATION, LEISURE & AMENITIES COMMITTEE held at THE COUNCIL OFFICES, THE GROVE, SWANSCOMBE on THURSDAY 27 JANUARY 2022 at 7.00PM

PRESENT: Councillor Peter Harman - Chairman
Councillor Emma Ben Moussa
Councillor Anita Barham
Councillor Lorna Cross
Councillor Ann Duke
Councillor Lesley Howes

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

ABSENT: There were none

379/21-22. **ARRANGEMENTS AND CONSTRAINTS REGARDING FILMING OR RECORDING THE MEETING.**

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

380/21-22. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.**

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Linda Hall, due to other commitments.

An apology for absence was received from Councillor John Hayes, due to other commitments.

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.

381/21-22. **SUBSTITUTES.**

There were none.

382/21-22. **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.

383/21-22. ITEMS DEEMED URGENT BY THE CHAIRMAN / MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES AND THEIR POSITION ON THE AGENDA.

There were none.

384/21-22. TO APPROVE AND SIGN THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 18 NOVEMBER 2021.

Recommended: That the Minutes of the Meeting held on 18 November 2021 were approved and signed as a true record.

385/21-22. 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, Saxon Court, Swanscombe Park, Valley View, Keary Road Allotments and Equipment.

The Town Clerk highlighted the work being undertaken in Broomfield Park with the planting of native hedging plants, obtained as part of the "Free Tree Scheme" from the Woodland Trust.

Recommended: That the information be noted.

TOWN CLERK AND RESPONSIBLE FINANCIAL OFFICER'S REPORT.

386/21-22. RECREATIONAL FACILITY CHARGE 2022 -2023.

Members considered the proposed price increases which had been increased by 2.5% overall and rounded up appropriately. As previously agreed, the allotments had been increased by 15% to include the staged recovery of the administration costs of the Allotment Association.

****** All of these figures had been taken into account when members previously agreed the Estimates for the forthcoming 2022 – 2023 financial year (*minute 358/21-22 Finance and General Purposes Committee and minute 365/21-22 full Council, 13 January 2022*).

Members discussed the impact of the charging structure and agreed that in future years this should be reviewed earlier in the wider budget setting process.

Recommended: That the Recreation Facility Charges 2022 – 2023 be approved.

387/21-22. CAPACITY BUILDING FUND (DARTFORD BOROUGH COUNCIL (DBC)) – FUTURE APPLICATIONS.

Members were advised that at its meeting on 13 December 2021 the DBC General Assembly of Council had agreed that it would discontinue this funding from 1 April 2022 and that, going forward, the funding would be transferred to the “Green Fund” for projects that improve the environment or reduce environmental impact.

Members were asked to begin considering suitable / appropriate projects for the scheme.

Recommended: That the item be noted.

388/21-22. COMMUNITY ORCHARD - UPDATE.

Members were advised that further to minute 325/21-22 (full Council 9 December 2021), Dartford Borough Council (DBC) had begun work on the community orchard, within Swanscombe Park, on 17 January 2022 and it was hoped the trees would be installed 23 / 24 February 2022. The wildflower meadow being created would be immediately under the orchard which will also be part of the Queens Green Canopy Scheme (as well as our mini- community orchard within the picnic area).

Recommended: That the item be noted.

389/21-22. CHURCH ROAD HALL - UPDATE.

Members were advised that further to minute 244/21-22 (Finance and General Purposes Committee 28 October 2021) the decoration/repair works to the Church Road Hall had been completed including new signage and external lighting. The installation of the new UPVC windows and Fire Door were due to be undertaken at the beginning of February.

Recommended: That the item be noted.

390/21-22. **PROPOSED HANDRAIL AT ST PETER & ST PAULS CHURCH.**

Members were asked to consider installing a metal handrail at the entrance steps to St Peter & St Pauls Church. This would be dependent on cost and whether any restrictions allowed this.

After discussion it was agreed that one handrail should be installed and that this be painted black with rounded ends.

Recommended:

That, under Section 101 of the Local Government Act 1972 the Town Clerk be delegated authority to arrange the installation of a metal handrail (as indicated in the report) subject to cost and whether this is possible.

There being no further business to transact the Meeting closed at 7.40 pm.

Signed: _____ Date: _____
(Chairman)

