

MINUTES of the MEETING of the RECREATION, LEISURE & AMENITIES COMMITTEE
held at THE COUNCIL OFFICES, THE GROVE, SWANSCOMBE on WEDNESDAY 18
JANUARY 2023 at 7.00PM

PRESENT: Councillor Peter Harman – Chairman
Councillor Emma Ben Moussa – Vice-Chairman
Councillor Lorna Cross
Councillor Linda Hall
Councillor John Hayes
Councillor Lesley Howes

ALSO PRESENT: Graham Blew – Town Clerk
Martin Harding – Assistant Town Clerk/RFO
Dan Usher – Senior Groundsman/Gardener

ABSENT: Councillor Anita Barham

378/22-23. ARRANGEMENTS AND CONSTRAINTS REGARDING FILMING OR RECORDING THE MEETING.

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

379/22-23. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Ann Duke due to other commitments.

RESOLVED:

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

380/22-23. SUBSTITUTES.

There were none.

381/22-23. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST IN ITEMS ON THE AGENDA.

Councillor Linda Hall declared a prejudicial interest in agenda item 7.2 Recreational Facility Charges 2023 - 2024, as she is the Chairman of the Allotment Association and an allotment plot holder.

Councillor John Hayes declared a personal interest in agenda item 7.2 Recreational Facility Charges 2023 - 2024, as he is the partner of the Chairman of the Allotment Association.

Councillor Lesley Howes declared a prejudicial interest in agenda item 7.2 Recreational Facility Charges 2023 - 2024, as she is an allotment plot holder.

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.

382/22-23. ITEMS DEEMED URGENT BY THE CHAIRMAN / MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES AND THEIR POSITION ON THE AGENDA.

There were none.

383/22-23. TO APPROVE AND SIGN THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 24 NOVEMBER 2022

Recommended: That the Minutes of the Meeting held on 24 November 2022 were approved and signed as a true record.

384/22-23. 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 which included:

Broomfield Park, Eagles Road, Knockhall Park, Swanscombe Park, Saxon Court, Equipment/Staffing and Miscellaneous.

Recommended: That the report be noted.

TOWN CLERK AND RESPONSIBLE FINANCIAL OFFICER'S REPORT.

385/22-23. "MEMORIAL" IN HERITAGE PARK.

At the previous meeting, minute 299/22-23, Members had agreed for this item to be deferred, and the memorial left in situ, whilst final attempts were made to identify the family concerned and request that they apply for a memorial as per the Town Council Memorial Policy.

After lengthy discussion it was agreed.

Recommended:

1. That a letter, along with an Application for a Memorial, be sent to the family. This would be hand delivered by Councillor Lorna Cross and the letter would invite an application to be made for the correct placement of the memorial, as per the Town Councils policy.
2. That a deadline be placed on the letter giving a month (until the end of February) for a response. At this point if no response had been received the memorial would be removed and sensitively stored for the family to collect

Following advice from the Town Clerk, and having already declared prejudicial or personal interests, Councillors' Linda Hall, John Hayes and Lesley Howes took no part in the discussion or decision of the following item.

386/22-23. RECREATIONAL FACILITY CHARGE 2023 - 2024.

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 10% to include the staged recovery of the administration costs of the Allotment Association.

** These figures had been taken into account when members previously agreed the Estimates for the forthcoming 2023 – 2024 financial year (minute 369/22-23 Finance and General Purposes Committee and minute 375/22-23 special full Council, 12 January 2023).

Recommended: That the Recreation Facility Charges 2023 – 2024 be endorsed.

387/22-23. LAND ADJACENT TO PARKWOOD HILL (KNOCKHALL RECREATION GROUND).

Members were updated on the current situation regarding the tree work highlighted by the survey having been undertaken / completed and the situation regarding the fence/plants that had been installed alongside the garage of the property in Parkwood Hill.

Recommended: That the item be noted.

388/22-23. COVID VACCINATION ROVING BUS – NHS KENT & MEDWAY INTERGRATED CARE BOARD (KMICB).

Some areas had been identified by the KMICB as being of low uptake for the Covid vaccination and the Town Council were approached to see if we were able to provide a suitable location that could be used in conjunction with other areas within Dartford. The Town Clerk had liaised with the Project Manager Covid and Flu Vaccination Team (KMICB) and Dartford Borough Council (DBC) and arranged for the Covid vaccination roving bus to operate from The Grove Car Park between 10am to 4pm on 19 and 26 January, 2 and 9 February 2023.

Members requested an approach be made to the KMICB about whether a mobile breast screening unit would also be available to be in the Grove Car Park.

Recommended:

1. That the item be noted, and the actions taken by the Town Clerk be endorsed.
2. That a request be made to the KMICB about the possibility of a mobile breast screening unit to be located in the Grove Car Park.

389/22-23. EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC.

MOVED BY Councillor Lesley Howes and seconded by Councillor John Hayes.

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 item of business.

390/22-23. INGRESS PARK COMMUNITY CENTRE – UPDATE.

Members considered the tabled update that had been provided for consideration.

Members expressed concern that public perception on the delays involved with the project were incorrectly being attributed to both the Town Council and DBC.

Members agreed that Councillor Peter Harman, in his role as a Dartford Borough Council Ward Member for Greenhithe, contact the Planning Department to discuss whether DBC could issue a press release explaining the current delays involved with the Freehold transfer of Ingress Park Community Centre.

Recommended:

1. That the update be noted.
2. That DBC Ward Member for Greenhithe, Councillor Peter Harman, contact the DBC Planning Department to discuss whether an appropriate press release explaining the current delays involved with the Freehold transfer of Ingress Park Community Centre could be issued by DBC.
3. If DBC were unable, or unwilling, to issue a press statement DBC Ward Member for Greenhithe, Councillor Peter Harman be asked if he would consider issuing an appropriate Press Statement explaining the current delays involved with the Freehold transfer of Ingress Park Community Centre.

There being no further business to transact the Meeting closed at 7.45 pm.

Signed: _____ Date: _____
(Chairman)