

MINUTES of the MEETING of the RECREATION, LEISURE & AMENITIES COMMITTEE  
held at THE COUNCIL OFFICES, THE GROVE, SWANSCOMBE on THURSDAY 21  
SEPTEMBER 2023 at 7.00PM

**PRESENT:** Councillor Peter Harman – Chairman  
Councillor Emma Ben Moussa – Vice - Chairman  
Councillor Ann Duke  
Councillor Peter Harris  
Councillor Lesley Howes  
Councillor Elizabeth Wickham

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

**ABSENT:** There were none

170/23-24. **ARRANGEMENTS AND CONSTRAINTS REGARDING FILMING OR RECORDING THE MEETING.**

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

171/23-24. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.**

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

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Dawn Johnston due to other commitments.

**RESOLVED:**

That the reason for absence, for the above Town Councillor/s, be formally accepted and approved.

172/23-24. **SUBSTITUTES.**

There were none.

173/23-24. **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.***

**174/23-24. ITEMS DEEMED URGENT BY THE CHAIRMAN / MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES AND THEIR POSITION ON THE AGENDA.**

There were none.

**175/23-24. TO APPROVE AND SIGN THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 29 JUNE 2023**

**Recommended:** That the Minutes of the Meeting held on 29 June 2023 were approved and signed as a true record.

**176/23-24. 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, Heritage Park, Knockhall Park, Manor Park, Swanscombe Park, Equipment/Staffing and Miscellaneous.

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

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

**177/23-24. THE OLD FIRE STATION – ASSET OF COMMUNITY VALUE.**

The Town Council had previously registered The Old Fire Station as an Asset of Community Value (26 October 2017). This lasted for 5 years and expired on 27 October 2022 with Dartford Borough Council confirming it had been removed from the List of Assets of Community Value on 14 July 2023.

An application / re-submission was made by Officers on 13 July 2023 which was subsequently declined by DBC on 3 August 2023 with advice on x2 items which needed undertaking.

Members were asked to agree that the Town Council nominate The Old Fire Station as an Asset of Community Value.

Members were also asked to agree to the re-wording of the section supporting that the building is currently being used to further the social wellbeing or social interests of the local community.

**Recommended:**

1. That the Town Council nominate The Old Fire Station as an Asset of Community Value.
2. That the re-wording of the section supporting that the building is currently being used to further the social wellbeing or social interests of the local community be agreed.

**178/23-24. HEDGEHOGS R US.**

The Town Council had been approached by the founder of Hedgehogs R Us to see if it would be interested in becoming part of the project. Members were sent details of the project.

After discussion it was agreed that the offer be politely declined and that the Chairman contact Dartford Borough Councillor Laura Edie to enquire as to whether she had access to similar environmental tools.

**Recommended:** That the offer be politely declined and that the Chairman contact Dartford Borough Councillor Laura Edie to enquire as to whether she had access to similar environmental tools.

**179/23-24. SWANSCOMBE CENTRE – GCLL UPDATE.**

Members considered the update, including key statistics regarding the planned investment to the facility.

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

**180/23-24. EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC.**

MOVED BY Councillor Ann Duke and seconded by Councillor Peter Harris.

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.

181/23-24. **INGRESS PARK COMMUNITY CENTRE (IPCC) - UPDATE.**

Members considered the confidential report and the verbal update given by officers regarding the email from the Crest Nicholson Deputy Managing Director & Technical Director – Eastern, dated 19 September 2023.

Members expressed their extreme disappointment and frustration at the length of time this issue had been progressing due to no fault of the Town Council.

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

There being no further business to transact the Meeting closed at 7.30 pm.

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

