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SWANSCOMBE & GREENHITHE TOWN COUNCIL

Recreation, Leisure & Amenities Committee

Councillor Peter Harman - Chairman
Councillor Emma Ben Moussa - Vice-Chairman
Councillor Lorna Cross
Councillor Ann Duke
Councillor Peter Harris
Councillor Lesley Howes
Councillor Dawn Johnston
Councillor Elizabeth Wickham

To all other Councillors: For information only

A Meeting of the above Committee will be held on

WEDNESDAY 17 January 2024 at 7.00pm

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

Graham Blew

Graham Blew
Town Clerk

Dated: 12 January 2024

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.

The Council Offices, The Grove, Swanscombe, Kent, DA10 0GA.
Tel: (01322) 385513 Fax: (01322) 385849



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 Minutes of the Meeting held on 23 November 2023 (*full Council 7 December 2023*). (*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 **TREES AT ST PAULS CLOSE, SWANSCOMBE (p).**

Further to minute 287/23-24 the x3 Horse Chestnut Trees were surveyed and confirmed to be dead and required felling as soon as practical. The Planning Authority were informed, under a 5-day notice, and agreed for the trees to be *felled "as an exemption in order to remove a risk of serious harm under Section 14 of the current tree regulations."*

After having liaised with the Chairman and a representative from the church, and having obtained x3 quotations, the works were successfully undertaken on the 19 December 2023 at a cost of £1,600.00.

The following are attached:

- A. The Tree Inspection Report
- B. Response from the Planning Authority
- C. Photos of the completed works

As part of the permission to fell the tress, which are covered by a TPO, the Town Council *“are under a duty to plant x3 replacement trees the details of which are to be agreed in writing with the local authority”*.

To enable Members to give consideration as to where they would like to plant the replacement trees a diagram of the area is attached (D).

Recommended:

1. To endorse the actions taken in having the works undertaken.
2. To discuss and advise on the location for x3 replacement trees.

7.2 TREE AT SPRING VALE (p).

After the storm on Tuesday 2 January 2024 one of the trees at Spring Vale split with the section that fell damaging one of the garages at the rear of the houses (indicated in the attached documents).

The broken section of the tree was cleared the next day, and a letter (attached) was sent to the owner of the garage advising them of the incident and providing details of the Town Councils insurance company.

Recommended: That the actions taken, to date, be noted and endorsed.

7.3 REQUEST TO USE KNOCKHALL RECREATION GROUND – FUNFAIR (p).

The attached request has been received to use Knockhall Recreation Ground for a Funfair on 14, 15 and 16 June 2024.

The Town Council previously agreed, 31 May 2007, *“that the policy should be that Knockhall Park should not be used by Funfairs although each application should be submitted to the Committee for consideration on its merits”*.

Recommended: That the request to use Knockhall Recreation Ground for a Funfair be declined.

7.4 RECREATIONAL FACILITY CHARGES 2024 – 2025 (p).

Please find attached the proposed price increases, the Responsible Financial Officer (RFO) has increased them by 2.5% overall and rounded up appropriately. As previously agreed, the allotments have been increased by 10% to include the staged recovery of administration costs of the Allotment Association.

** All these figures were considered when members previously agreed the Estimates for the forthcoming 2024 – 2025 financial year (*minute 360/23-24 Finance and General Purposes Committee and minute 368/23-24 Special Full Council 11 January 2024*).

Recommended: That the setting of the Recreational Facility Charges 2024 – 2025 be endorsed.

7.5. INGRESS PARK COMMUNITY CENTRE – UPDATE (p).

Further to the update provided to all Members at the full council meeting on 7 December 2023 (*minute 321/23-24*) a response has been received from Gareth Johnson MP (attached).

The Major Projects Team Leader (DBC) arranged a Teams meeting on 4 January 2024 between Senior Officers, the Environmental Protection Officer (DBC), Crest Technical Director and Crest Acoustic Consultant. Topics discussed at this meeting, and requiring action from Crest, included:

- Internal Acoustics (Conditions 10 and 11 of planning permission for DA/12/00233/FUL).
- Noise limiting device (Conditions 10 and 11 of planning permission for DA/12/00233/FUL).
- Bike / Bin Store (Conditions 14 and 15 of planning permission DA/12/00233/FUL).
- Additional Car Park.
- Letter from Development Director, Crest Nicholson Eastern, dated 20 April 2017.

Recommended: That the update be noted.

INFORMATION IN THE OFFICE.

- Allotment & Leisure Gardener – Issue 4, 2023



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

