

MINUTES of the MEETING of the RECREATION, LEISURE & AMENITIES COMMITTEE held at THE COUNCIL OFFICES, THE GROVE, SWANSCOMBE on THURSDAY 21 MARCH 2019 at 7.00PM

PRESENT: Councillor K G Basson - Chairman
Councillor P M Harman - Vice Chairman
Councillor Mrs S P Butterfill
Councillor Ms L M Cross
Councillor Ms L M Hall
Councillor Dr J M Harman (substituting for Councillor Mrs A E D Barham)
Councillor J A Hayes
Councillor Ms L C Howes
Councillor R J Lees (substituting for Councillor B E Read)
Councillor D J Mote
Councillor B R Parry

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

ABSENT: Councillor Mrs M B Kelly

523/18-19. **ARRANGEMENTS AND CONSTRAINTS REGARDING FILMING OR RECORDING THE MEETING.**

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

524/18-19. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors' Mrs A E D Barham and B E Read.

An apology for lateness was submitted by Councillor Mrs J M Harman.

525/18-19. **SUBSTITUTES.**

Councillor Dr J M Harman substituted for Councillor Mrs A E D Barham.
Councillor R J Lees substituted for Councillor B E Read.

526/18-19. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST IN ITEMS ON THE AGENDA.**

Councillor K G Basson declared a prejudicial interest in item 7.5 – Request to hire Broomfield Park for Fun Day and also free use of pitch for a Charity Football match, as he is Chairman of Swanscombe Tigers FC.

Councillor Ms L C Howes declared a prejudicial interest in agenda item 7.4 Alkerden Lane Allotments (New Burial Ground) – Rent Review, as she is a tenant.

The Chairman gave the opportunity for the meeting to be adjourned at this point to accept questions from the public.

527/18-19. ITEMS DEEMED URGENT BY THE CHAIRMAN / MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES AND THEIR POSITION ON THE AGENDA.

There were none.

528/18-19. TO APPROVE AND SIGN THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 31 JANUARY 2019.

Recommended: That the Minutes of the Meeting held on 21 January 2019 were approved and signed as a true record.

529/18-19. SENIOR GROUNDSMAN /GARDENER'S REPORT.

The Senior Groundsman/Gardener went through the report which updated members on the work undertaken, by the Parks Department and also the work planned for the future which included:

Swanscombe Park, Broomfield Park, Eagles Road Play Area, Knockhall Park, Valley View, Vehicles/equipment and miscellaneous.

Recommended: That the report be noted.

TOWN CLERK AND RESPONSIBLE FINANCIAL OFFICER'S REPORT.

530/18-19. ANNUAL SAFETY INSPECTION OF PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT.

Members were forwarded the results of the Annual Playground Safety Inspection. Members were able to see that most of the risk criteria ratings are L (low) or VL (very low). Members will also see that, the amount of issues highlighted in the report has greatly reduced (due to the planning and investment made by the Town Council).

Due to the timescales involved the Town Clerk arranged for the works highlighted to be undertaken.

Recommended: That the report be noted and to endorse the actions taken by the Town Clerk in arranging for the highlighted works to be undertaken.

531/18-19. SaFE - OLD FIRE STATION COMMUNITY CAFÉ.

The Director, SaFE, had written to advise that they would be able to run an Advice Service from the Old Fire Station Community Cafe (every Wednesday) from 3 April 2019 onwards.

Further to minute 428/18-19 the Town Clerk updated members on the proposal, submitted on 19 March 2019, by the Citizens Advice North & West Kent for their Advice Services in Swanscombe (at the Old Fire Station Community Café).

Recommended:

1. To agree to SaFe running an Advice Service from the Old Fire Station Community Café on Wednesdays (10.30am to 12.30pm).
2. To agree to the Citizens Advice North & West Kent proposal to run a bespoke “triage” service from the Old Fire Station Community Café on Tuesdays (10.00am to 2.00pm) and Fridays (12.00pm to 2.00pm).

532/18-19. CHILDREN'S SUMMER ENTERTAINMENT – 2019.

Members were supplied with two packages for children's summer entertainment. The budget agreed in the estimates, and contained within Cost Centre 9, Cost Code 121, for this item was £2,000.00 with the Administration Team having successfully obtained an additional £1,500.00 (KCC Members Grant) and £300.00 (Asda Community Champion) external funding.

Recommended: That Option 1 be used for the Summer Entertainment - 2019.

533/18-19. ALKERDEN LANE ALLOTMENTS (NEW BURIAL GROUND) – RENT REVIEW.

As per the Lease of the site, the rent is reviewed every three years in line with the increase in the Retail Price Index. This has resulted in the rent increasing from £59.00 to £65.00 which the Town Clerk, on behalf of the Town Council, has signed a memorandum for.

Recommended: That the item be noted and the Town Clerks actions in dealing with this matter be endorsed.

Having already declared a prejudicial interest Councillor K G Basson left the chamber and took no part in the discussion or decision of the following item.

534/18-19. VICE-CHAIRMAN COUNCILLOR P M HARMAN IN THE CHAIR.

535/18-19. REQUEST TO HIRE BROOMFIELD PARK FOR FUN DAY AND ALSO A FREE USE OF A PITCH FOR A CHARITY FOOTBALL MATCH – SWANSCOMBE TIGERS FC.

Further to last year's request, minute 64/18-19, Swanscombe Tigers FC had submitted another request to hire Broomfield Park for a Fun Day on 14 July 2019 and also a free

use of a pitch for a Charity Football Match in Broomfield Park on Sunday 1 September 2019.

The Town Clerk informed members that the Chairman of Swanscombe Tigers FC had sent an email advising that the Club were happy to agree to the proposed Terms and Conditions that had been supplied by the Town Clerk.

Recommended:

1. That, in accordance with Section 19 (3) (a) of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions Act 1976, the request for the use of a pitch for a Charity Football Match be granted.
2. That the request to hire part of Broomfield Park for a Fun Day be agreed, subject to the Terms and Conditions provided by the Town Council.

536/18-19. CAPACITY BUILDING FUND (DARTFORD BOROUGH COUNCIL (DBC)) – FUTURE APPLICATIONS.

Further to minutes 391/18-19 (*FGP 10 January 2019*), 436/18-19 (*RLA 31 January 2019*), 481/18-19 (*full Council 14 February 2019*) and 513/18-19 (*Finance and General Purposes Committee 6 March 2019*) members were asked to consider suitable/appropriate projects for this year's scheme.

Recommended: That the item be noted.

537/18-19. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC.

MOVED BY Councillor R J Lees and seconded by Councillor D J Mote;

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 items of business.

538/18-19. INFORMAL MEETING WITH CAMLAND / EBBSFLEET FOOTBALL CLUB (EFC).

Further to minute 202/18-19 (*Recreation, Leisure & Amenities Committee 20 September 2018*) a further informal meeting was held with Camland and a representative from EFC.

The confidential notes from this meeting, 19 February 2019, were attached for members' information.

There followed a lengthy discussion whereby members expressed their deep concerns about the suitability and viability of the proposal. Members were also concerned that the conservation and archaeological importance of the site should not be understated or lost to the community.

Members requested that officers seek clarification from Dartford Borough Council Planning regarding the possibility of amending the S106 Agreement to ensure it meets the needs of the current communities.

Recommended: That the item be noted.

539/18-19. **UPDATE – REQUEST FROM WALK TALL.**

Further to minutes 366/18-19 and 492/18-19 the Town Clerk updated members on the email exchanges that had taken place since 2 February 2019.

After a lengthy debate it was duly proposed, seconded and agreed;

Recommended: That Walk Tall be asked to formally respond, within 28 days, advising the Council of what their intentions are for both the Heritage Community Hall and also the Squash Courts.

There being no further business to transact, the Meeting closed at 8.25pm

Signed: _____ Date: _____
(Chairman)