

MINUTES of the MEETING of the RECREATION, LEISURE & AMENITIES COMMITTEE held at THE COUNCIL OFFICES, THE GROVE, SWANSCOMBE on THURSDAY 22 JUNE 2017 at 7.00PM

PRESENT: Councillor K G Basson (Chairman)
Councillor P M Harman
Councillor Mrs A E D Barham
Councillor Ms S P Butterfill
Councillor Ms L C Howes
Councillor D J Mote
Councillor B R Parry
Councillor B E Read

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

ABSENT: Councillor Mrs M B Kelly

69/17-18. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors' Ms L M Cross, Ms L M Hall and J A Hayes.

70/17-18. **SUBSTITUTES.**

There were none.

71/17-18. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST IN ITEMS ON THE AGENDA.**

Councillor K G Basson declared a prejudicial interest in agenda item 7.1 Football Pitch Allocation as he is the Chairman of Swanscombe Tigers FC.

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

72/17-18. **ITEMS DEEMED URGENT BY THE CHAIRMAN / MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES AND THEIR POSITION ON THE AGENDA.**

There were none.

73/17-18. **TO APPROVE AND SIGN THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 30 MARCH 2017.**

Recommended: That the Minutes of the Meeting held on 30 March 2017 were approved and signed as a true record.

74/17-18. SENIOR GROUNDSMAN/GARDENERS REPORT.

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

Swanscombe Park, Manor Park, Broomfield Park, Knockhall Park, Heritage Park, Leisure Centre, Spring Vale, Valley View, Saxon Court, equipment (including the need to purchase a new chemical back pack sprayer and a new "Truspred" machine for use on the bowls green and cricket square) and staff.

The Senior Groundsman/Gardener advised members of the approximate cost of the 2 new pieces of equipment and also asked members to consider whether the low wooden fence at thre Leisure Centre (damaged by ASB in January) required re-instating.

Recommended:

1. That the item be noted.
2. That the Town Clerk be delegated to purchase the 2 new pieces of equipment if they were found to be beyond repair.
3. That the damaged low wooden fence at the Leisure Centre not be re-instated at this time.

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.

VICE- CHAIRMAN, COUNCILLOR P M HARMAN IN THE CHAIR.

75/17-18. FOOTBALL PITCH ALLOCATION.

Members noted that the Swanscombe Tigers FC may require an additional junior pitch to those contained in the report.

Recommended: That the football pitch allocations for 2017 – 2018, as detailed in the report, be agreed.

76/17-18. AWARDS FOR ALL GRANT CONFIRMATION.

The ATC/RFO detailed the amount of funding that had been successfully applied for and also detailed the location and type of equipment that the funding was awarded for.

Members were provided with 6/7 options of play equipment/designs to select from as well as a diagram to show the area of Broomfield Park suggested that the new equipment should be located in.

Members agreed that the location indicated on the diagram should be used for the installation. After discussion it was agreed that Options 1, 2 and 6 were the most suitable choices and that these should be sent to the Ebbsfleet Academy requesting that students

in the age range the equipment was designed for should select which of these 3 options they preferred.

Recommended:

1. That the location as indicated in the diagram be used for the installation of the new equipment.
2. That Options 1, 2 and 6 be sent to the Ebbsfleet Academy requesting that students in the age range the equipment was designed for should select which of these 3 options they preferred.
3. That the results of the students choices be reported back to the September or November 2017 Recreation, Leisure & Amenities Committee meeting.

77/17-18. ADULT GYM EQUIPMENT - BROOMFIELD.

As a result of the successful grant application to Awards for All (previous item) funds previously allocated for new play equipment were available and Members were asked to consider whether they wished to now use these funds to apply for match funding to enable the same adult gym equipment recently installed in Knockhall Park to also be installed in Broomfield Park. Members were provided with a diagram of the suggested location within Broomfield Park for this equipment.

After discussion it was agreed;

Recommended:

That the funds be used to apply for match funding for Adult Gym Equipment to be installed in Broomfield Park, Swanscombe and that, if successful, this equipment be installed in the location shown to members on the diagram.

78/17-18. BENCHES IN PARKS/PLAY AREAS.

Members considered the installation of additional benches at the Swanscombe Heritage Park and also a bench at Valley View Play Area, Greenhithe as this was the only play area that did not currently have a bench in it.

After discussion it was agreed the Friends of the Heritage Park should be consulted for their views on the location of x2 new traditional benches in the Swanscombe Heritage Park (football training area).

It was also agreed that the current yellow metal bench in Broomfield Park, Swanscombe should be replaced and that the ATC/RFO should submit a funding application to the Kent County Council Members Grant Scheme for this replacement bench and the new traditional bench at Valley View, Greenhithe.

Recommended:

1. That, after consultation with the Friends of the Heritage Park, x2 traditional benches be installed at the Swanscombe Heritage Park and these be located around the edge of the football training area.
2. That a traditional bench be installed at Valley View Play Area, Greenhithe.
3. That a traditional bench replace the old yellow metal bench in Broomfield Park, Swanscombe.

79/17-18. TRANSFER OF COUNCIL BENCH TO DARTFORD BOROUGH COUNCIL (DBC) – SWANSCOMBE CEMETERY.

The Town Clerk appraised members of the work/discussions held with the Recreation, Leisure & Amenities Committee Chairman, Swanscombe Borough Councillor R J Lees and Dartford Borough Council regarding this matter.

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

80/17-18. PLAY PLACE INNOV8 CIC – USE OF BROOMFIELD PARK.

Members discussed the request/s submitted by the Business Director of Play Place and agreed;

Recommended:

That the request/s as detailed in the documents provided be agreed.

81/17-18. GROUNDWORK SOUTH GREEN TEAM.

The ATC/RFO updated members on meeting held with Groundwork on 12 May 2017 where it was identified that the Heritage Park would be an appropriate area that the Green Team could be utilised.

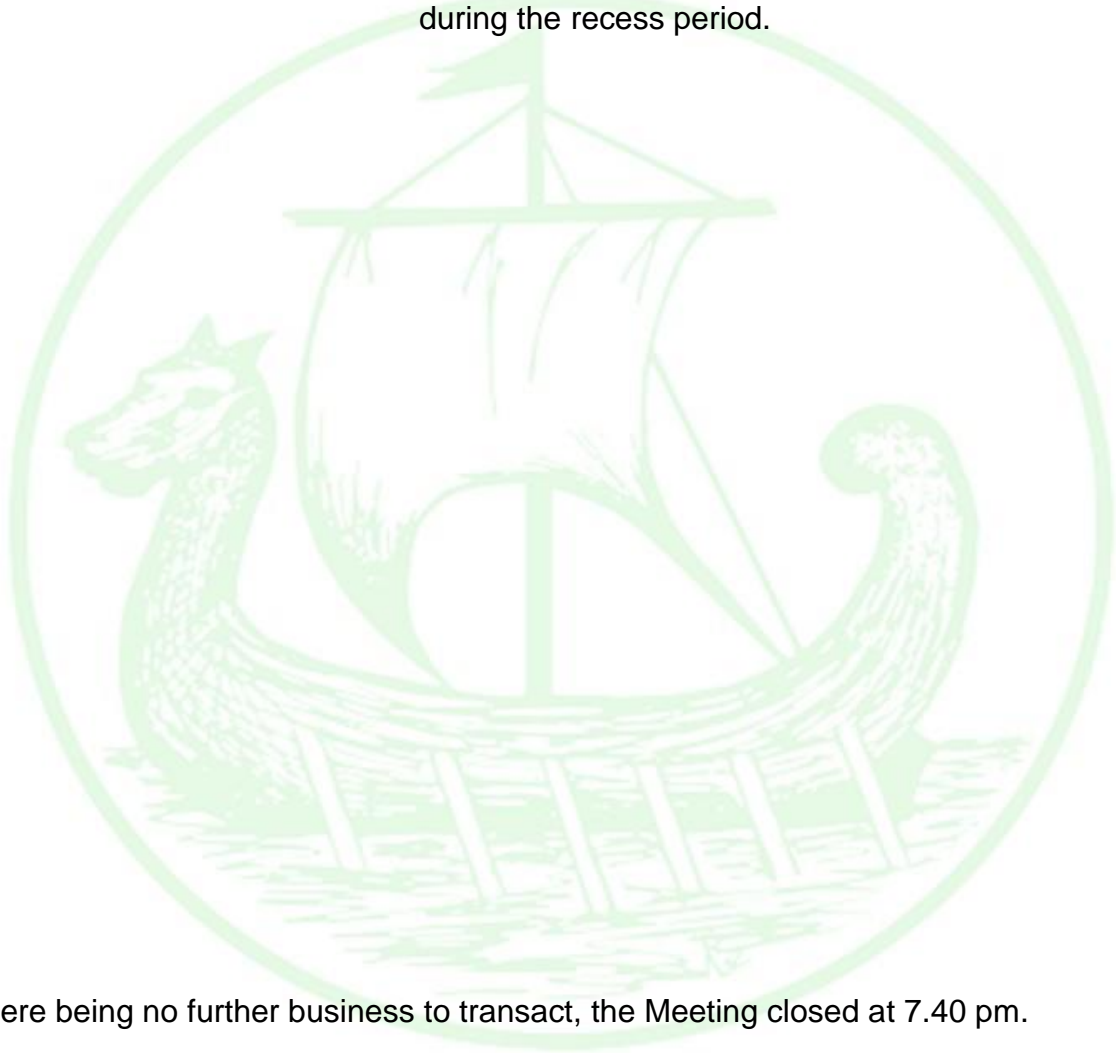
Recommended: That the use of Groundwork South Green Team, if it becomes available, be agreed.

82/17-18. **DELEGATION TO CONDUCT NORMAL BUSINESS DURING RECESS PERIOD.**

Members were requested to delegate authority to the Town Clerk, in accordance with section 101 (1) (a) of the Local Government Act 1972, to conduct the normal business of the Council during the recess period. The Town Clerk would consult with the Chairman and Town Mayor, if appropriate, before any business was transacted

Recommended:

That, in accordance with section 101 (1) (a) of the Local Government Act 1972 the Town Clerk be delegated authority to conduct the normal business of the Council during the recess period.



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

Signed: _____ Date: _____
(Chairman)