

MINUTES of the MEETING of the RECREATION, LEISURE & AMENITIES COMMITTEE  
held at THE COUNCIL OFFICES, THE GROVE, SWANSCOMBE on WEDNESDAY 18  
SEPTEMBER 2024 at 7.00PM

**PRESENT:** Councillor Emma Ben Moussa – Vice – Chairman  
Councillor Lorna Cross  
Councillor Ann Duke  
Councillor Peter Harris  
Councillor Lesley Howes

**ALSO PRESENT:** Graham Blew – Town Clerk  
Martin Harding – Assistant Town Clerk/RFO

**ABSENT:** There were none

**163/24-25. ARRANGEMENTS AND CONSTRAINTS REGARDING FILMING OR RECORDING THE MEETING.**

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

**164/24-25. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.**

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

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Elizabeth Wickham due to other commitments.

An apology for absence was received from the Senior Groundsman Gardener due to other commitments

**RESOLVED:**

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

**165/24-25. SUBSTITUTES.**

There were none.

**166/24-25. 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.***

**167/24-25. ITEMS DEEMED URGENT BY THE CHAIRMAN / MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES AND THEIR POSITION ON THE AGENDA.**

The Town Clerk informed the meeting that the Dartford Borough Council 'Santa on Tour' event was provisionally scheduled to stop at the Town Council offices on Sunday 1 December 2024 at 3.30pm.

**168/24-25. TO APPROVE AND SIGN THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 27 JUNE 2024.**

**Recommended:** That the Minutes of the Meeting held on 27 June 2024 were approved and signed as a true record.

**169/24-25. 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, Swanscombe Park, Valley View, Equipment/ Staffing and Miscellaneous.

The Town Clerk informed members that the rope previously stolen from the flagpole in Swanscombe Park had been replaced.

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

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

**170/24-25. CRICKET PITCH ALLOCATION 2025 SEASON.**

Members considered the report regarding the possible hirers of the cricket pitch for 2025.

After discussion it was proposed, duly seconded and agreed:

**Recommended:** That the cricket pitch be allocated to Swanscombe & Greenhithe 1880, and Ebbsfleet Cricket Clubs for the 2025 season.

**171/24-25. ROUGH SLEEPERS – KNOCKHALL PARK AND HERITAGE PARK.**

Members considered the report on recent incidents of rough sleepers in the Town Council Parks.

Members were also provided an update confirming that the rough sleepers from Knockhall Park had vacated the site, and that the gentleman from the Heritage Park had since moved onto a smaller tent in Broomfield Park.

**Recommended:**

1. That the actions taken to date by the Town Clerk in managing the encampments from rough sleepers be noted and endorsed.
2. That continued engagement with the relevant stakeholders be undertaken by the Town Clerk, to ensure that the matter is managed to minimise the potential impact to the Town Council, its parks and neighbouring residents.

**172/24-25. ELECTRIC VEHICLE CHARGING POINTS (EVCP).**

Further to minute 462/22-23 members were provided with the statistics, from 2021 to date, for the EVCP's at both The Swanscombe Centre and the Grove Car Park.

Members were pleased to note that the statistics clearly showed a progressive increase in use across both sites.

**Recommended:**

That the report be noted.

**173/24-25. BOUNDARY DISPUTE.**

A resident of Pentstemon Drive had been found to have moved their fence line across the boundary into Broomfield Park. It had been arranged for the Town Council Solicitor to write a letter to the resident which had resulted in the fence line being re-instated on the correct boundary line.

**Recommended:**

That the item be noted.



174/24-25. **INGRESS PARK COMMUNITY CENTRE – UPDATE.**

Further to the update provided at the 27 June 2024 Recreation, Leisure and Amenities Committee meeting (minute 79/24-25), members were informed that the Town Council and the Senior Planner at Dartford Borough Council had both emailed the Crest Nicholson Technical Director & Deputy Managing Director – Eastern on 12 August, 27 August and 12 September 2024, seeking an update on:

1. The outstanding items on the snagging list
2. The discharge of conditions 10&11
3. The construction of the bike and bin stores
4. The planning application for the car park. *(We noted that Natural England have raised further comments on the 7 August 2024 and Dartford Borough Council submitted their comments on 11 September 2024)*

To date there had been no response.

**Recommended:**

That the update be noted, and that contact be made with the local MP for Dartford to enquire whether he was able to help in any way to speed up the process.

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

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