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SWANSCOMBE & GREENHITHE TOWN COUNCIL

Recreation, Leisure & Amenities Committee

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

To all other Councillors: For information only

A Meeting of the above Committee will be held on

Thursday 14 November at 7.00pm

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

Graham Blew

Graham Blew
Town Clerk

Dated: 7 November 2024

Due to the confidential nature of the business to be transacted the Press and Public will be excluded from the meeting from item 9 onwards.

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 18 September 2024 (*full Council 24 October 2024*). (*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 **GANG MOWING.**

Further to minutes 377/23-24 and 409/23-24 and in accordance with Financial Regulation 11.1 (iv) (and in consultation with the Chairman of Finance and General Purposes Committee) a continuation contract for gang mowing from 2025 to 2027 (3 years) has been signed.

The quote for the coming year included a 17% increase which was higher than expected. A meeting was held with the Contracts Manager and, in consultation with the Senior Groundsman / Gardener, a revised quote was agreed as well as a 3-year contract option. The 3-year contract enables the continued provision of the service as well as assisting the Town Council in being able to plan and budget accordingly.

As per Financial Regulation 11.1 (i) attempts were made to obtain x3 quotations but unfortunately the other x2 companies declined to submit quotations.

Recommended: That, in accordance with Financial Regulation 11.1 (iv), the action in agreeing the contract for gang mowing of the Town Councils areas from 2025 to 2027 (3 years) be endorsed.

7.2 ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION PLAN WORKING GROUP (p).

Further to minute 122/24-25 the Working Group met again on 23 October 2024 and the notes from that meeting, including a recommendation, are attached for members consideration.

Recommended:

1. That the item be noted.
2. That the amended Environmental Action Plan be adopted.

7.3 COUNCIL OFFICE AND CAFÉ CHRISTMAS OPENING ARRANGEMENTS (p).

Attached is a calendar for the Council Offices and Café over the Christmas and New Year. Members are asked to consider when they wish the office and café to be closed over the festive period. Officers have been consulted and have no objection to using annual leave entitlement to cover any periods of closure.

Recommended:

To agree the opening days of the offices and café over the festive period with a notice being displayed, in advance, advising Members of the Public of the closures. As per previous years a relevant message would also be recorded for the Council Office answer machine for this period.

7.4 ESTIMATES FOR 2025 – 2026 (p).

This item is slightly different this year due to the constraints and pressures the Town Council, like others, is experiencing and that were detailed in the report to full Council on 24 October 2024. At this meeting (minute 228/24-25), it was unanimously agreed that various issues be resolved including that the financial position of the Town Council be noted, and that the precept be increased by 7%.

This will enable the draft Annual Estimates 2025 – 2026 to be collated and prepared for members to consider at the 5 December 2024 meeting which will then pass to be approved and endorsed by the full Council in January 2025 before setting the Council Tax Base for the 2025 – 2026 financial year.

Recommended:

That the item be noted.

8. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC.

TO RESOLVE: 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 press and public leave the meeting during consideration of the following item.

9. GRAVESHAM COMMUNITY LEISURE LIMITED (GCLL) DRAFT PROPOSAL SCALE OF CHARGES 2025 FOR THE SWANSCOMBE CENTRE (p).

Further to minute 293/23-24 and in accordance with the Management Agreement (Section 28), the Head of Operations, GCLL, has advised of the proposed Scale of Charges for 2025 and has included the current charges for information.

Recommended: To agree the proposed Scale of Charges for 2025, submitted by GCLL, for The Swanscombe Centre.

INFORMATION IN THE OFFICE.

- Allotment & Leisure Gardener – Issue 4, 2024



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Swanscombe and Greenhithe Town Council Website:
<http://www.swanscombeandgreenhithe town council.gov.uk>

