



Minutes of a meeting of the Leisure & Cultural Committee
held at the Parish Council Office, High Street, Ascot, SL5 7JF
on Tuesday 8th October 2019, commencing at 7.00pm

Members Present: Councillors R Ellison, M Finch, S Humphrey, A Jezard, S Jones, C Lester, A Sharpe, I Steers
In attendance: Helen Goodwin, Clerk to the Council; Mr P Morris, a member of the public.

7476 TO NOTE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillor S Verma.

7477 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The Chairman asked to receive any Declarations of Interest in accordance with the adopted Code of Conduct. Cllr I Steers declared an interest in the group Climate Emergency in the Sunnings & Ascot (CESA) of which he is a member.

7478 MINUTES

The minutes of the previous meeting, held on 27 August, were approved as a correct record and signed as such.

7479 PRESENTATION

Mr Morris presented his paper on the management of outdoor sites. As a former councillor he had been involved in devising a five-year strategy, with work to be carried out in small steps, and is keen to ensure that the plans for Tom Green's field and Blythewood nature reserve continue to be followed. Cllr Ellison acknowledged Mr Morris's help in the past and noted that, due to his knowledge and expertise, these areas have improved greatly. Cllr Ellison advised that we do have an independent consultant to advise on the ongoing works to these sites and contractors who are well qualified to carry out the work. The council expressed gratitude to Mr Morris for all his work and agreed to write to him to thank him formally and reassure him that our consultant concurs with the ideas he has set out and the council is continuing to follow the long-term strategy agreed.

7480 SITES AND PROJECTS UPDATE

The Clerk provided an update as follows:

- i) Paul Ansell, the project manager who oversaw the construction of the Pavilion at Victory Fields, has been contacted and the 12-month defect inspection will take place during week beginning 28th October 2019;
- ii) No feedback on plans for Cheapside play park has been received. Cllr A Sharpe offered to visit the school with the mood boards previously prepared, to canvas ideas;
- iii) The borough has been contacted for advice and guidance in reducing our carbon footprint but no response has been received as yet. The clerk will follow up;
- iv) A firm has been approached regarding risk assessment and maintenance of the flag poles. The initial cost for assessment will be £375. The committee agreed unanimously that this should go ahead;
- v) A member of the public has requested a recycling bin at Victory Fields and a quote has been received. The committee agreed that this would be a good idea but asked the clerk to consult with our waste collection contractor before agreeing to install a bin;
- vi) A member of the public has asked if he may fund the provision of a new bench at the cemetery, with a plaque attached. Cllr Ellison advised that there is a need for another bench and it was agreed that this request should be allowed, but that it must be from the council's approved supplier, to be the same style as those already there, to be sited as agreed by the council and may be inscribed rather than have a plaque attached;
- vii) At Hyn's Green in South Ascot a large branch of a tree recently came down and had to be cleared away. In the process it became obvious that the tree was rotten and was unstable, presenting a danger to the public, as a result of which the remainder of the tree was felled;

A member of the public called to report that one of the log-benches at South Ascot play park was rotten and could present a safety hazard. The clerk inspected the log and agreed that it was unsafe and unsightly. This has now been removed;

Part of the fence between the recreation ground at South Ascot and Brockenhurst Road is broken – some wooden posts being rotten have caused the metal bar to come adrift. There is concern that a gap in this fence could be seen to be an invitation to travellers and so has asked our contractor has been asked to repair the fence as a matter of urgency.

7481 VICTORY FIELDS

- i) The committee agreed unanimously to have the gate installed between the courts at Victory Fields;
- ii) Tennis courts – the committee agreed unanimously to continue to operate as we have been doing, with the same key system and the same fee;
- iii) It was agreed unanimously that the policies recommended by the Clerk should be implemented;
- iv) The committee agreed unanimously to lease a water bottle filler/drinking fountain at Victory Fields. This will be funded within this year's budget.

7482 SOUTH ASCOT PARK

The committee agreed unanimously that a new bin should be provided.

7483 EMERGENCY PROCEDURES

Cllr Sharpe reported that the Cordes Hall committee did not seem receptive to the idea of the council citing the hall as its emergency procedure facility. The clerk at Sunningdale Parish Council has been approached to ask if we could have an arrangement to share their facilities in such an event, this could also be a reciprocal arrangement. A response has not yet been received.

7484 COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE LEVY (CIL)

The committee discussed various ideas for the possible use of CIL funds in the future, including:

- Installing water fountains/drinking bottle fillers in high streets and other parks;
- Greening the bus shelters, in cooperation with RBWM;
- The purchase or lease of a facility on which a facility for children with special needs could be established;
- The purchase or lease of land adjoining Tom Green's field;
- The purchase of land bordering Oriental Road/Victory Fields.

The committee requested the clerk liaise with Cllr R Wood and also invite the RBWM CIL officer to meet with the council to advise on use of the funds.

7485 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- i) Cllr I Steers asked if the council would be interested in financially supporting the group CESA to enable them in their work within the parish to take action against climate change, such as campaigning to encourage residents to switch energy providers to renewable energy. He pointed out that this would be a good way for the council to engage with people living in the parish who are concerned about climate change and would also show we are serious about reducing our carbon footprint. Cllr Steers will advise CESA to submit a grant application to the council for consideration in December.
- ii) The clerk expressed concern that the allotments are generally looking untidy and one allotment in particular is very overgrown, which is not acceptable and could cause a tripping hazard. Cllrs B Hilton and J Gripton will be asked to consult with the allotment holders.
- iii) The clerk has received a letter from the Sunninghill Trust with regard to the renewing of our lease. Cllr A Sharpe explained the background to the situation and it was agreed that, as the borough had become involved in the matter, the clerk should consult with borough councillor D Hilton and report back to the council so that they can decide how best to respond. The committee agreed that, as this matter has been going on for a long time, a resolution needs to be found as soon as possible.

There being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 8:52pm

Councillor Robert Ellison, Chairman