

**Minutes of a meeting of the Leisure & Cultural Committee
held virtually by Zoom
on Tuesday 08 September 2020, commencing at 7.00pm**

Members Present: Councillors R Ellison (Chairman), M Finch (Vice Chairman), L Davison, J Gripton, B Hilton, C Lester, C Richardson and A Sharpe.
In attendance: Helen Goodwin, Clerk to the Council.

The Clerk advised the meeting the meeting would be recorded and the recording will be kept until the minutes are approved at the next Leisure & Cultural committee meeting on 01 December, following which they will be destroyed.

7685 TO NOTE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllrs S Humphrey.

7686 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The Chairman asked to receive any Declarations of Interest in accordance with the adopted Code of Conduct. None were received.

7687 MINUTES

The minutes of the previous meeting, held on 04 February, were approved as a correct record and signed as such. Referring to minute 7576 the chairman noted that, due to the pandemic, new trees had not yet been planted but this is being progressed and they will probably be sited at the cemetery.

7688 SITES & PROJECTS UPDATE & CIL FUNDING

- (i) The Clerk provided an update on the sites:

Blythewood – the playpark has been re-opened and is being well used. There are temporary signs up and permanent signs are currently being made. Some of the woodland management work was carried out as planned but some requires a new felling licence which is currently being prepared. There is an issue of land grabbing at Blythewood; the borough enforcement officer was unable to intervene but the Clerk will be writing to those responsible.

Cemetery – the only issue to report is that some grave diggers have been dumping excess soil in other parts of the cemetery. The clerk will be writing to the undertakers to remind them this is not acceptable and they will be charged for removal of earth if this continues.

Cheapside – The playpark at Cheapside has not yet re-opened as there are some safety issues which were highlighted in the RoSPA inspection carried out recently. This is in hand and the park will be opened as soon as the work is carried out to make it safe. Plans for new equipment are progressing, following feedback from the local school. Cllr Mark Finch is preparing a document of specification to be sent out for tender.

South Ascot – we have not yet been able to re-open the playpark due to safety issues which were highlighted in the RoSPA inspection. We are in contact with playground equipment specialists to come out to look at the equipment to see what can be done to make it safe. The surface area around the equipment is in a poor state of repair in several places; a quote will be obtained for repair. There have been considerable delays on this as companies were unable to send out staff over the summer due to the pandemic. There is a problem with the changing room as there has been rodent damage to the pipework. Repairs will be carried out and pest control measures taken before the changing room can be used.

Victory Fields – the playpark and gym equipment are open. There have been complaints of antisocial behaviour including issues of amplified noise and this has increased over the summer. We used our security company to carry out extra patrols late at night at weekends in August. Cllr Mark Finch offered to go to the park to monitor the sound levels in the early evening, when the problems apparently begin, so that we can ascertain the level of noise. There is also an issue with the fencing at the multicourt which is in quite a poor state of repair where the two types of fencing meet and this is a safety hazard. The clerk will contact the company which installed the fencing to quote for repairs and for installing the gate previously agreed to put between the courts. Cllr Allison Sharpe commented that this

needs to be done properly to ensure longevity. There are still problems with the pavilion door which seems to have dropped and it is very difficult to lock and unlock. There is a problem with the fire alarm which has a fault; there is currently no maintenance contract but this will be put in place and the alarm repaired. An incident was reported last week when a driver collided with the concrete bollard on the verge at the side of the car park. Any claim will be dealt with by our insurance company.

- (ii) Cllr Robert Ellison gave an outline on CIL funding – in the course of the next year we could receive up to £500,000 in CIL money for use on infrastructure and projects within the parish. Suggestions made included supporting the libraries, building a Scooter park and improving the area around the stream at South Ascot. Cllr Allison Sharpe explained the different types of parish council budgets and reminded the committee that the precept for this year was increased to enable the council to maintain its assets with precept money and that capital spending on top of that would come out of CIL funding to enable the council to make best use of CIL funding. It was pointed out that a list of possible projects was drawn up last year by the parish council; Cllr Robin Wood will be asked to attend the next Leisure meeting to talk to the committee about CIL funding and what it can be used for.

Cllr Allison Sharpe asked if we are going ahead with the water fountain at Victory Fields; the clerk advised that this is on hold in the present climate due to hygiene issues.

7689 LITTER PICKING

Cllr Allison Sharpe reported that a parishioner brought to her attention that she had been going out litter picking at Victory Fields herself and picking up lots of litter, taking it home and binning it. We have a contract to litter pick twice per week in our playparks. In the past litter picking has been increased in the school holidays and this year, with the extended school holidays, we have had a large increase in the amount of litter and have had to instigate extra litter collections with our contractor.

Cllr Sharpe reported that she had attended a meeting with Network Rail regarding their forthcoming tree works; they advised they wouldn't clear the litter from their own land, only the rubbish they create doing the work. Along Truss Hill Road there is a lot of litter thrown over the fence onto railway land. Cllr Sharpe asked Network Rail if the council could put in a team to pick up the litter – they don't generally allow the public onto their land and resisted the idea but it was agreed there wouldn't be an objection as long as their manager could be in attendance as this land is well removed from the track. It would need to be done by appointment. Cllr Sharpe has secured six sets of litter picking equipment from the borough – high vis jackets, litter picking sticks, heavy duty gloves and black bags.

It is apparent from social media that there are people interested in helping to keep the area free of litter. The committee felt it was a good idea to have a campaign to co-ordinate litter picking teams and that the councillors should be involved and lead by example. The clerk and assistant clerk will put notices on social media and our website. Cllr Sharpe will contact Network Rail to arrange a time and date to litter pick at Truss Hill Road.

7690 ALLOTMENTS

Cllr John Gripton reported that the allotment holders at Cheapside had a meeting to see if they could come together and form an association. Cllr Gripton has spoken to the national association of allotment holders who sent through a lot of information and an outline constitution and he considers that it would be a positive move if an association was formed and would be a good way for us to be able to deal with the allotment holders over various issues. All the information has been sent to allotment holders but, as yet, no response has been received.

The allotments were judged earlier in the year and the shield is currently being engraved with the name of the new winner.

7691 VICTORIAN STREET FAYRE & CHRISTMAS LIGHTS

We had to cancel the Victorian Street Fayre due to the socially distancing issues of the pandemic; this will now be held on 14 November 2021. Some money had been paid out but the only loss was the £21 for the TEN agreement - all other costs were forwarded on to next year. Cllr Allison Sharpe suggested that, when the committee for next year is formed, Paul Roache from RBWM be invited to get involved. It was noted that, as the Victorian Street Fayre has been delayed by a year, the next Party in the Park will be in 2022, which is the Queen's 70th Jubilee year.

The chairman reminded the committee that the parish council pays for the Christmas Lights in Sunninghill and South Ascot, while the borough pays for those on Ascot High Street. The lights for this year have been ordered and the committee was asked for a switch-on date. It was agreed this should be between 15 and 20 November. Cllr Allison Sharpe requested we put a little extra in the budget this year for South Ascot who have had a hard time with all the road works earlier in the year. It was agreed we would ask for an extra festoon for South Ascot. Paul Roache has said he has some spare money and has been asked if he would consider helping out South Ascot.

7692 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Cllr Allison Sharpe pointed out that, because CIL is really in its infancy, the council needs to establish a structure; committee members should consider suggestions for using CIL funds and bring the ideas to full council. Council also needs to put together a list of criteria so if a group or organisation requests CIL funding a list of criteria to be fulfilled can be provided, for example details of the proposed project, a description of the site in question and who owns it, details of any quotations, what is the work, timescales, etc. A checklist can then be sent to applicants who can respond with a proper proposal. Cllr Robin Wood is to be approached to ask if he will co-ordinate this.

There being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 8:15pm.

Councillor Robert Ellison, Chairman