



Minutes of a meeting of the Leisure & Cultural Committee
held virtually by Zoom
on Tuesday 09 February 2021, commencing at 7.00pm

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

The Clerk advised that the meeting would be recorded and the recording will be kept until the minutes are approved at the next Leisure & Cultural committee meeting on 09 February, following which they will be destroyed.

7804 TO NOTE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

No apologies for absence were received. Cllrs S Humphrey, S Jones and S Verma were absent.

7805 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

7806 MINUTES

The minutes of the previous meeting, held on 01 December, were approved as a correct record and signed as such.

7807 SITES & PROJECTS UPDATE

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

- The Allotments – there has been a complaint about one of the trees in the hedgerow and we will be having the hedgerow and ash tree bordering Green Lane tidied up.
- Blythewood – the next phase of the woodland management project is to begin in week commencing 15 February.
- Cemetery – there have been a lot of funerals; the notice board is in need of cleaning and smartening up and this will be arranged.
- Cheapside Play Park – the Invitation to Tender went out to four different companies and two have responded.
- South Ascot – there is no further news regarding the lease; the strip of land opposite the playing field may need some repairs to the fencing and gate. The clerk is reviewing.
- Tom Green's Field – a quote has been received for the chain link fencing along the border with Coombe Grange and for the post & rail fence along the border with Coombe Lane. Further quotes will be obtained. The clerk is consulting with Peter Harding re the appropriate wild flowers to plant at Tom Green's.
- Victory Fields – there are ongoing issues with plumbing and locks at the pavilion, the clerk will be writing to F J Lane to see how this can best be resolved. Quotes have been requested for repair/replacement of the court fencing and gates. The skate park is fenced off but there are regular breaches; the clerk is looking into how to make this more secure. It will be necessary to carry out repairs, particularly with regard to soil erosion, when the skate park re-opens.

7808 LITTER PICKING

Cllr Davison presented slides. An article has been published in the parish magazine and some new volunteers came forward so there are now 12, including one doing this as part of her Duke of Edinburgh award. There are no volunteers in North Ascot or Cheapside. Lots of comments on the litter situation on social media and nationally, much around dog mess which has increased through lockdown, partly due to the increased dog ownership. There have been suggestions that more bins are required.

Education could be helpful in tackling the problem - there are a lot of organisations that offer free assemblies about not littering. Another idea is 'plogging' (running and litter picking - a Swedish idea) that might be popular with the local primary schools. A litter picking campaign could be combined with educational information to raise awareness. Other ideas are to add dog bins if there are areas where the problem is particularly bad; we could also enlist the help of the community wardens.

Cllr Davison suggested an organised community litter pick, perhaps enlisting the help of other organised groups, and it was agreed that she should make plans for this for later in the year and report back to the next full parish council meeting.

7809 IMPROVED CYCLING ROUTE INITIATIVE

Cllr Richardson reported on the meeting held with members of Sunningdale parish council which came about as a response to the RBWM consultation. There was a lot of talk at the meeting about the current position on cycling and walking and reference was made to the RBWM documents: The Cycling Action Plan, the Milestones Document (covering rights of way) and the Neighbourhood Plan (map 12 has all the cycling routes on). However, there is no shared or agreed plan on what each parish wants. Connectivity was something that was discussed, very much talking about active travel, ie those journeys of 1 to 2 miles that could be made by physical active means such as walking or cycling, and encouraging people to go to the shops by walking or cycling, walking to the station, cycling to Windsor (which you can currently do through the Great Park, although there are roads to negotiate either end of the route). The conclusions were that there is a need to break down the ultimate goals: increasing walking and increasing cycling are both very large goals and very wide so it will be necessary to break it down into manageable chunks. It was suggested to start from the Neighbourhood Plan and Sunningdale are going to have a look at this and decide which parts they want to focus on, then the parishes will work together to ensure a joined-up plan. The official notes of the meeting have now been received and the clerk will circulate them to all members of the Leisure & Cultural committee.

It was noted that the RBWM consultation finishes today but it isn't a binary choice between different schemes; RBWM wants to work with residents to establish schemes that work for the community so people need to give their feedback.

It was suggested that the Parish Map project should be used as an opportunity to educate people about the walking and cycling routes in our parish and to highlight the time taken to travel between different areas using the various routes.

It was agreed that Cllr Richardson and Cllr Deason will work together looking through the Neighbourhood Plan to pick out areas which the parish council would like to focus on.

7810 NEW TREE PLANTING

Following the felling of the trees at the entrance to Victory Fields we have decided to replant. Some trees will be sited at the top of the embankment, a couple of mountain ash trees and a couple of liquid amber trees; in the cemetery, where the old Leylandii hedge was, it is planned to plant four or five trees. It is hoped to move on that this year. This could be opened up to sponsorship and investigations will be made as to how to go about it. It is recommended that we have some wire mesh to protect the new trees and, at Victory Fields, water bags around the trees because they will need a lot of water as they are at the top of the slope.

7811 PARISH MAP

Cllr Finch spoke about plans for a parish map, and plans to engage with, and raise awareness among the local community where there is current interest in the outdoor environment. The plan is for a map which captures the essence and flavour of the activities of the parish and provides background to some of the local landmarks and features. This is to be a community parish map and will engage the community in taking a survey and walking around the local parish to capture interesting features, landmarks and areas of interest. Ideas can then be presented to an artist to translate into a representative map, a showpiece parish map. Sections of it could then be taken and put in the parks to encourage people to enjoy the outdoors with walks.

There was discussion around the ideas:

- There is quite a lot of information in the Neighbourhood Plan regarding landmarks and areas of special interest. Work can be done to build on this.
- Concern was expressed that, owing to the size of the parish, this will be a very big task and it may be that several small maps will be needed.
- It was suggested that a starting point could be the recreation areas, taking the Neighbourhood Plan and the existing footpaths, and also taking the notes from the Green Corridor Project regarding the wildlife to be found in the different areas. This way areas could be worked on individually, with maps showing how long it takes to travel from one area to another by foot or cycle and the wildlife that might be expected to be seen along the way, as well as any historic buildings. The area maps could be brought together to form one large map.
- Physical maps could be displayed in our recreation grounds and include a QR code so that people could scan them on their phones and then be guided on their walk or ride.
- Wildlife in Ascot could also be consulted as they have done a lot of work at the Blythewood wildlife area and pond.
- The Ascot Rejuvenation Development Brief has maps showing for, instance, where the doctors surgeries are, where sports clubs are, etc and that is a source of information that could be used.
- Community involvement is important and ideas from members of the public could be captured before being presented to an artist to draw up some designs.
- Social media could be used to find a local artist.

It was agreed that Cllr Finch will develop an approach around the themes discussed. Cllr Hilton offered to help work on a map for North Ascot and Cllr Sharpe on a map for the area around Victory Fields. Cllr Finch will share a template survey document which was drawn up for a different council carrying out a similar exercise.

7812 SUNNINGHILL VICTORIAN STREET FAYRE

If this is able to go ahead this year it will although, at the moment, it's not possible to know what arrangements will need to be made in terms of restricting numbers and enabling social distancing. Preliminary plans will go ahead at little or no cost at this stage. A more definite decision will be made at the end of May.

7813 CHEAPSIDE PLAY PARK

The Invitation to Tender was sent to four companies and two have responded, the deadline has now passed. The tenders have arrived as hard copies but the Clerk will contact the companies and ask for them in digital format so that they can be shared and reviewed for a decision to be made. Cllr Hilton has the contact details of another company and will liaise with the Clerk as to whether this company has been approached or could be.

7814 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business to be discussed.

There being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 7.50pm.

Councillor Robert Ellison, Chairman