

**Minutes of a Meeting of Leisure & Cultural Committee
Held in the Pavilion, Victory Field, Ascot, SL5 7DG
On Tuesday 25 July 2023 commencing at 7.15pm**

Members present: Councillors Lydia Davison-West (Chairman), C Richardson (Vice-Chairman), J Gripton, B Hilton, C Revilla, C Roberts, D Sanders, A Sharpe, R Tavoletti & M Turton.

In attendance: Mrs H Goodwin, Clerk to the Parish Council; Mrs M Morgan, Admin Assistant.

8520 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

No apologies were received.

8521 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

8522 MINUTES

The minutes of the Leisure & Cultural Committee Meeting held on 30 May were approved as a correct record and signed as such.

8523 CHARMAN'S UPDATE

Cllr Davison-West reported that, following on from the puppet show in June, she has received a request from an amateur dramatic company to put on a panto in Tom Green's Field at the end of the summer. A backing paper will be provided at the next meeting.

8524 SITE UPDATE

The Clerk updated the committee on current issues at the various sites. The written report is attached as an appendix to these minutes.

Councillors reported as follows:

- South Ascot – Cllr L Davison West – playground remains in a poor state of repair with surfacing becoming increasingly broken.
- Cemetery – Cllr A Sharpe – the parish council section is looking neat and tidy; the RBWM section has not been mowed for months and looks an eyesore.
- Victory Field – Cllr C Roberts – the equipment is deteriorating; the train is of particular concern and may require more immediate attention.
- Cheapside – Cllr D Sanders – the park is looking in good condition but the seat of one of the swings may need attention and there is graffiti on the signs.
- Blythewood – Cllr C Revilla – the swing has been removed; the bike racks and tool stations are now in situ. There is rubbish in the wooded area that might need to be removed.
- Allotments – Cllr B Hilton - all the fees have been paid; a couple of the plots appeared to be in a poor state and the holders were contacted. As a consequence some tidying up has been done. The trees need cutting back. The hedge at the back, near the school, needs cutting back. The hedge at the front will need cutting back when the blackberries have finished.

8525 FOOTPATHS

RBWM has recently issued an update to the Milestones Report. Cllr R Tavoletti suggested we ask the borough which of the 40 improvements planned for our parish they intend to carry out in the next year. He asked if the parish council could make a recommendation for which ones we would like to see done. It was agreed that Cllr Tavoletti will lead this and a backing paper will be put together for the next L&C meeting.

8526 BLYTHEWOOD SWING REPLACEMENT

The different options for replacing the large swing were presented and discussed. The Sovereign option was agreed unanimously by show of hands.

8527 VICTORY FIELD KIOSK

An advert has gone out on social media but no responses received. Cllr A Sharpe spoke about how we had explored different options in the past but haven't managed to secure anything. Crown Ices will be asked to come along over the summer.

8528 VICTORY FIELD REFURBISHMENT

Cllr L Davison West gave an outline of what has been done so far and what is being proposed:

- A new toddler area at the front;
- A café/kiosk, either a new one at the front or using the existing pavilion;
- Turn the MUGA court back into a tennis court and then hand over the courts to the LTA to be able to monetise them; build a new MUGA court;
- Use the £70k allocated improve the existing play area for older children;
- Build an active trail running behind the tennis courts, behind the exiting playground, round the whole park;
- Look at the entrance and consider how accessibility can be improved.

The proposal was for the committee to support the principle of using the professional organisation to design and deliver the project, in partnership with the parish council, recognising that it will need to go to full council due to the cost, and to use CIL funds to deliver the project. The design cost will be higher than currently quoted due to changes being proposed to the brief.

It was agreed that the working party will go back to the Project Centre to discuss the Traffic Input section of the proposal and gain better understanding of what this includes so that the committee can decide whether this is worth including or not.

On the basis of the above paragraph the proposal that the committee agrees in principle to contract the Project Centre to carry out the feasibility study was agreed unanimously by show of hands.

8529 SUNNINGHILL VICTORIAN STREET FAYRE

The Street Fayre planning group has been meeting regularly and arrangements are proceeding. RBWM has informed us that, as there hasn't been a Street Fayre since 2018, this will be treated as an entirely new event and the charge for road closures etc will therefore be considerably higher than expected and budgeted for, this will also include extra work which will probably require us to use the AA at more expense.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.30pm.

Cllr L Davison West, Chairman