

Minutes of a Meeting of Leisure & Cultural Committee
Held in the King Edward VII Meeting Room, Ascot Racecourse, SL5 7JX
On Tuesday 23 January 2024 commencing at 7.15pm

Members present: Councillors Lydia Davison-West (Chairman), C Richardson (Vice-Chairman), J Gripton, B Hilton,
C Revilla, D Sanders and A Sharpe

In attendance: Mrs H Goodwin, Clerk to the Parish Council.

8676 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllrs C Roberts and R Tavoletti and were accepted by the committee.

8677 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

8678 MINUTES

The minutes of the Leisure & Cultural Committee Meeting held on 14 November were presented. The wording of item 8613 (a) should have the following added: 'The clerk was asked to check on the legal implications of the £0 fee for a child interment'. With this amendment the minutes were approved as a correct record and signed as such.

8679 SITE UPDATE

Councillors reported as follows:

- South Ascot – Cllr L Davison West – the wetpour is still in a poor condition and deteriorating, however nothing further can be done until after the lease is signed.
- Cemetery – Cllr A Sharpe – RBWM has finally cut the grass in the old section. After a previous storm one of the panes of glass on the noticeboard has shattered, this has been reported to the clerk and repairs are to be actioned.
- Victory Field – Cllr C Roberts was absent.
- Cheapside – Cllr D Sanders – no report as yet but will visit the site and report back to the clerk.
- Blythewood – Cllr C Revilla – the swing and snail have not yet been replaced but signs are up advising the playpark will be closed on Friday for installation of the snail replacement.
- Allotments – Cllr B Hilton – nothing to report other than there is some clearing up to do after the storm.

The Clerk updated the committee as follows:

- South Ascot – a bench on Hyn's Green, dedicated to Percy Hathaway, has been vandalised and is not repairable. The committee was asked if they would wish to put another bench in its place and indicated they would.
- Cemetery – the damaged noticeboard has been reported to contractors for repair.
- Victory Field – we're still working with the contractor who is due to refurbish the disabled toilet and are hoping to have the work done in the next couple of months.
- Blythewood – the springer replacement for the snail is to be installed this Friday; we are still in conversation with the company to replace the swing as they changed the quote.

8680 VICTORY FIELD SPORTS & RECREATION HUB

Cllr D Sanders explained his plans to work with other local sports coaches to run free sessions at Victory Field and bring local people into activities, using the space creatively. The committee agreed the idea is good and they will support him to move forward with it. The clerk's office will support where necessary.

8681 CHILDREN'S THEATRE

Two options for the event were put forward, and option 2 was chosen by show of hands with a majority vote of 5 to 2.

It was pointed out that parking/crossing the road was an issue last year and the clerk was asked to look into the extra costs involved in parking on the grass at Victory Field. The decision whether to open the grass for parking will be taken at the next L&C meeting on 05 March.

8682 SOUTH ASCOT RECREATION PARK

The chairman canvassed the opinion of the committee as to what should be done at South Ascot when the lease has been signed. Suggestions made included:

- Making a pathway through the woods, possibly with a raised path, and clearing the stream to make a feature of it;
- Installing a duck pond;
- Draining the land to make it more useable.

It was agreed that the playground itself is the priority and that the current changing room needs to be refurbished or replaced.

Committee members were invited to send their ideas for rejuvenating the recreation park to the clerk so that the committee can work towards putting a proposal together and allocating funds.

8633 PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY (PROW) UPDATE

There was no update provided on PROW. There is a meeting on 25 January and an update will be provided following that.

A presentation from Project Centre was shown giving a first draft of what could be done at Victory Field. There is a Stakeholder group meeting on 25 January and attendees will be consulted on the ideas shown on the draft presentation. It was noted that no costings have yet been included.

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

Cllr L Davison West, Chairman