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# Minutes of a Meeting of Leisure & Cultural Committee

# Held in the King Edward VII Meeting Room, Ascot Racecourse, SL5 7JX

# On Tuesday 05 March 2024 commencing at 7.15pm

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

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

**8707 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from Cllrs C Revilla and R Tavoletti and were accepted by the committee. Cllr C Roberts was absent.

**8708** **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

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

**8709 MINUTES**

The minutes of the Leisure & Cultural Committee Meeting held on 23 January were approved as a correct record and signed as such.

**8710 SITE UPDATE**

Councillors reported as follows:

* Cemetery – Cllr A Sharpe – the cemetery is boggy after all the wet weather but otherwise all looks well.
* Cheapside – Cllr D Sanders – one of the picnic benches is looking in a poor state of repair – a picture will be sent to the clerk for action to be taken.
* For other sites either the councillor reported no change since last meeting or the appropriate councillor was absent from the meeting and had submitted no report.

The Clerk updated the committee as follows:

* South Ascot – the clerk and chairman have looked over the draft lease and will be meeting with the solicitors next week to discuss required amendments. An extension to the lease until the middle of April has been agreed. As yet an updated plan of the area has not been received from the landlord.
* Blythewood – the springer replacement for the snail has been installed as have the new signs. The plans for the swing have been scrapped as the contractor could not honour his original quote. The clerk’s office is exploring options with other contractors.

**8711 VICTORY FIELD PROJECT**

The latest draft report from Project Centre, giving ideas for the rejuvenation of Victory Field, was shown to the committee and discussed. There are two visions presented – the ‘Quick Win’ and the ‘Long Term’ and the pros for each set out, as well as details of the consultations carried out and the feedback obtained from stakeholders including local schools and nurseries.

The next steps are for the Project Centre to present the plans to full council and then to move onto Phase II when costs will be put together and put to committees and full council for approval.

**8712 CHILDREN’S THEATRE**

The clerk has consulted with the Facilities Manager who is of the opinion that parking on the grass for the puppet show should not be a problem and should be managed by four people. The cost would be approximately £900 for the four; this would bring the total cost to host the puppet show to approximately £3,700 which is within the £4,000 budget.

**8713 NOVELLO THEATRE, SUNNINGHILL - UPDATE**

Cllr J Gripton presented a paper setting out the current situation with the Novello Theatre and some thoughts about how it might be funded and run in the future.

It was commented that this could be a good opportunity for the parish council as there is a need in the area for youth services and this could be a venue for this.

Concern was expressed that the parish council is being asked to give money to a project which is not yet clearly defined. In addition, support should be in the context that funds will also be required for the new facilities to be built in Ascot as part of the new Community Centre.

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There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.00pm.

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Cllr L Davison West, Chairman