

**Minutes of a Meeting of Leisure & Cultural Committee
Held Ascot United Football Club, Winkfield Road, Ascot SL5 7LJ
On Tuesday 28 May 2024 commencing at 7.15pm**

Members present: Councillors C Richardson (Chairman), L Davison-West (Vice-Chairman), J Gillborn, J Gripton, B Hilton, D Sanders & A Sharpe.

In attendance: Mrs H Goodwin, Clerk to the Parish Council; Mrs Olivia Marsden, Projects Administrator.

8773 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

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

8774 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

8775 MINUTES

The minutes of the Leisure & Cultural Committee Meeting held on 05 March were approved as a correct record and signed as such.

8776 SITE UPDATE

Councillors reported as follows:

- Cemetery – Cllr A Sharpe reported that a homeless person had been living in the cemetery but seems to have moved on. The fence along the bottom border requires attention as it is in a poor state of repair.
 - As there is now no available space in the cemetery for full burials, Cllr Sharpe has been looking into the possibility of compulsory purchase of the land next to the cemetery. She reported that she has written to the Cedars, who own the land, to ask if they would be interested in selling the field to the parish council, to be used as a natural burial site. No response has been received.
 - There is a plot of land for sale on the London Road between Sunninghill roundabout and Silwood junction – the clerk contacted the estate agent to ask about the possibility of purchasing one section of the land for a cemetery and is awaiting a response.
 - RBWM was approached for advice on compulsory purchase but was unable to provide any assistance.
- South Ascot – Cllr L Davison West reported that the equipment and surfacing continues to deteriorate but there is nothing more that can be done until the lease is signed.
- Cheapside – Cllr D Sanders had not visited the site and so was unable to give a report.
- Allotments – Cllr B Hilton reported that one tenant, John Smith, had relinquished his plot due to ill health, and a prospective new tenant would be coming to look at the plot tomorrow. Cllr Hilton will report back on any issues.
- Blythewood – Cllr C Revilla was absent so unable to give a report.
- Victory Field – no report was given.

The Clerk updated the committee as follows:

- Victory Field
 - The fence on the footpath coming down from Oriental Road has been damaged and is on the list for repair.
 - The refurbishment of the disabled toilet is still being planned – there have been many delays but it is hoped that the work will begin in the next few weeks.
 - A tree on Tom Green's field, behind an Oriental Road property, was found to be hollow and has been removed for safety reasons.
- Cheapside – the fence at the playpark was damaged but has now been repaired.
- Blythewood – HAGS have been contracted to replace the swing and were due to carry out the work in May but have had supply issues. The clerk's office is following up with them.

8777 VICTORY FIELD TRUST DEEDS

The committee was advised of the history of the issue surrounding the deeds for Victory Field, which were discovered to have been lost some years ago and the members of the council at the time agreed to draw up a trust and declare themselves trustees. Trustee meetings were held annually, before an L&C committee meeting, but this hasn't happened for some time and the current clerk had never been made aware of it. The clerk's office is researching to find out where the appropriate paperwork is and what the legal situation is; the clerk will report back to the next L&C meeting.

8778 VICTORY FIELD PROJECT

Cllr L Davison West outlined the background to the project and the options being put before the committee, as set out on the backing paper. She explained that, although Project Centre hasn't provided a definitive quote for managing the project, she understands it would be in the region of £20,000.

Discussion surrounded: whether three tennis courts are required; whether it is necessary to move the MUGA court; the desirability of having the toddler play area near the road and away from the older children's play area.

The options were put to the vote and the committee resolved to proceed with Option 2 by 4 votes to 2, with one abstention.

Option 2, the Project Centre 'Quick Wins Vision' will be put forward to the CIL committee to request they approve recommending the full council release the necessary funding.

8779 SOUTH ASCOT RECREATION GROUND

Cllr C Richardson outlined the background to the project and the options being put before the committee, as set out in the backing paper. Cllr A Sharpe explained the connection in South Ascot to Lewis Carroll.

The committee resolved to proceed with the proposal set out in the backing paper unanimously by show of hands.

8780 CHRISTMAS LIGHTS

The clerk outlined the options, as per the backing paper. The committee resolved unanimously by show of hands to hire the Christmas lights for this year from Lamps & Tubes and to also ask them to repair/replace the timers as necessary.

8781 DEVENISH ROAD

The committee discussed the planters on the Devenish Road roundabout, the maintenance of which has historically been funded by RBWM but which have not had any upkeep for a couple of years and are looking very unsightly. The committee resolved to choose Option 3 of the backing paper, unanimously by show of hands. The parish council will not be taking on the maintenance of the planters.

8782 ASSET REGISTER

The clerk reported that the Asset Register is now virtually complete, following a lot of work by David Norman and Olivia Marsden. At the recent internal audit the auditor was shown the asset register and was satisfied with it.

8783 PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY (PROW) VOLUNTEERS

Volunteers were requested to commit to walking the footpaths in the parish and the following agreed:

Cllr D Sanders – footpaths 1-7.

Cllr J Gripton – footpaths 31-35.

Cllr B Hilton – footpaths 8, 16, 18 & 19.

8784 WORKING GROUPS

Membership of the Working Groups which fall under the L&C committee were agreed as follows:

- Sports & Recreation (SR) Hub – Cllrs D Sanders and C Revilla.
- Cycling & Walking Working Group – Cllrs C Richardson & D Sanders.
- PROW Working Group – Cllrs R Tavoletti, D Sanders, C Richardson & L Davison West.
- Victory Field Planning Working Group – Cllrs A Sharpe, C Richardson, L Davison West & D Sanders.
- South Ascot Recreation Ground Planning Working Group – Cllrs B Hilton, A Sharpe, C Richardson & L Davison West.
- Parish Plan Working Group – Cllrs A Sharpe, C Richardson & L Davison West.
- Events Working Group – all members of the L&C committee.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.40pm.

Cllr C Richardson, Chairman