



**Minutes of the Leisure and Properties Committee Meeting  
held on Monday 13 June 2016 at 7.30 pm  
in the Fair Oak Village Hall**

**Members Present:** Mr A Cossey, Mr J Goss, Mrs D Lusmore, Mr H McGuinness, Mr J Noel, Mrs M Shephard, Mr J Sorley

**Other Members present:** Mrs H Douglas, Mr P Spearey

**Apologies:** Mr C Bird, Mr J Noel

**In Attendance:** Ms C Gosling, Mrs L Greenslade, Clerk and Deputy, Mr C Burchett, Ranger.

### **PUBLIC SESSION**

Mr & Mrs Read of plot C15 at the Knowle Park allotments expressed their disappointment on the waterlogged state of their allotment and welcomed the Council's support in finding a solution to the problem.

Residents of 42 and 44 Shorts Road asked if they could be consulted prior to any decisions made for the Scout hut land, once demolished. They also complained about parking on Shorts Road. Mr Cossey offered to investigate parking restrictions.

### **13 ELECTION OF CHAIRPERSON**

Mr Goss proposed Mr Cossey as Chairperson, Mrs Lusmore seconded. There were no other nominations and Members voted in favour.

Mr Cossey took the Chair

### **14 ELECTION OF VICE CHAIRPERSON**

Mrs Shephard proposed Mr Sorley as Vice Chairperson, Mr Cossey seconded. There were no other nominations and Members voted in favour.

### **15 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None received.

### **16 MINUTES**

Members noted the minutes of the Leisure Committee meeting dated 11 April 2016 (previously approved at Full Council on 18 April 2016).

### **17 MATTERS ARISING**

#### **9 – Plot C19 Knowle Park Allotments**

The Ranger advised the vacant plot had been offered to the three remaining schools, one had declined and two had not responded. Mrs Douglas suggested offering it to

The Bridge Centre. If however, the group were not interested Members agreed the plot would be grassed over.

## **18 CORRESPONDENCE**

Email from Mims Davies MP asking for bench memorial policy. Noted.

Weller Hedley – contract re Angelica open space. The Clerk would remind EBC that they were covering the Parish Council's costs.

British Legion – 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Battle of Somme. Request to dedicate a green space as Centenary Field. The Chairman asked for this to be added to the Agenda in September.

EBC – notice of grant of planning permission for score box and storage cabin. Noted.

Letter from Search and Detect advising that due to rising costs it was no longer be viable for them to lock the gate at White Tree Close, and the operation would cease on 30 June. The Clerk advised that it would only be 4 weeks until Bargate moved on to the site and suggested leaving the signs up, but not locking the gate. Members agreed.

## **19 DRAINAGE ISSUES AT PLOT C15 KNOWLE PARK ALLOTMENTS**

The Tenants of Plot C15 had complained of drainage issues affecting their plot. The Ranger had investigated and suggested ideas for planting and also offered relocation.

The Ranger acknowledged that the plot was in one of the shadier areas of the site. He had spoken to an expert whose opinion was that the plot perceived to look more wet than it was which was due to the way the tenants had banked up the soil. The Ranger could not see a solution to the problem by adding additional drains.

Mr Goss suggested the tenants moved to an alternative plot of their choosing, as and when one becomes vacant. The Council recognised the tenants had put a lot of work into the plot and agreed the move could be phased until they had completely relocated to their new plot. The Tenants were happy with this proposal.

## **20 LAND ADJACENT 17 PAVILION CLOSE**

The resident had requested to purchase a parcel of land adjacent their property, known as Lapstone Playing Fields, owned by the Parish Council.

Mr Cossey reminded Members of the Council's Policy not to sell any Open Space land.

The Ranger said he had explained to the residents that he was happy to tidy up the land in the autumn but felt it might create a problem with anti-social behaviour.

Members asked the Ranger to tidy up the land and then if issues did arise, the trees could be allowed to grow again.

## **21 CRICKET SCOREBOX**

The Ranger advised planning permission had been granted, the base started, erection scheduled for week commencing 4 July and the power supply had been organised.

## **22 WYVERN MEADOW**

The Clerk reported that a decision would be made at a Cabinet meeting at HCC in mid-June and that the County Councillor was aware of the proposed land transfer.

## **23 PUBLIC OPEN SPACE – ANGELICA GARDENS**

Members discussed the acquisition of land at Angelica Gardens and potential use for allotments and construction of a footpath.

Mr McGuinness recommended creating a pond and installing a board walk as the land is often waterlogged. Mr Sorley suggested keeping an area as wetland.

Mr Goss proposed to designate part of the land to allotments, creating a pond, installing a board walk and keeping an area as wetland. Mr Sorley seconded and all voted in favour.

## **24 CROWDHILL GREEN**

The Clerk updated Members on the Crowdhill Green development, construction of new community building and the transfer of open space to the Parish Council. She advised that the building would be completed by November 2017 and £70,000 had been designated public art.

Mrs Douglas asked for a formal letter to be sent expressing the Council's dismay that they had not been included in the S106 agreement. The Clerk to also clarify legal costs.

## **25 SCOUT HUT**

Members discussed the existing scout hut in Shorts Road. Demolition, future use and land for extension of play area and creation of car park for New Century Park.

Mrs Douglas explained the background to the site.

Members noted future budgetary requirements to assist the Scouts with the funding to demolish the building.

## **26 ALL TERRAIN VEHICLE**

The Ranger tabled quotes to purchase an All-Terrain Vehicle, as follows:-

|        |            |
|--------|------------|
| £12970 | Cushman    |
| £13950 | Kubota     |
| £14100 | John Deere |

He advised £13,000 had been put in the budget and there would also be a trade-in for the Peugeot van of approximately £2,000.

Mr Cossey proposed to purchase the Kubota at £13,950, Mr Goss seconded and all voted in favour.

## **27 CEMETERY PATH**

Members discussed quotation received to create a new path in the woodland at Fair Oak Cemetery, as follows:-

|        |          |
|--------|----------|
| £2,150 | R & R    |
| £3,061 | Shawyers |
| £3,500 | Ableman  |

Mr Cossey proposed proceeding with the works with R & R Contractors at £2,150, Mr Goss seconded and all voted in favour.

## 28 PLAY INSPECTION

Members discussed recommendations received following the re-inspection of the play equipment.

### **New Century Park**

- £679.65 to replace basketball hoop
- Both larger swings have issues. Recommendation to repair one and remove the other set.
- Junior swing requires new seats and other minor matters.

### **Knowle Park**

- New chains for hammock swing

### **Horton Heath Play Area**

- Junior swings removed as new seat and chains required

Mrs Douglas proposed to proceed with all the above works except she recommended replacing all the swings at New Century Park, Mr Goss seconded and all voted in favour.

## 29 KNOWLE PARK PLAY AREA

Members noted the report received from the incident at Knowle Park and noted the preventative action taken, as follows:-

### **Zip Wire**

- Chain on seat to be upgraded to '100' grade steel links from the current '80'.
- Improved spring to be fitted with added 'shock buffer' to decrease stress levels to chain links.
- To alternate inspectors either annually or bi-annually, whichever is more practical.
- Wire, fixings, chains etc to be independently checked and serviced annually in addition to the certified safety inspection.
- In house: reviewed risk assessments to carry out more robust daily inspections on all play equipment.
- New play area policy to be recommended at the next Policy meeting on 20 June.
- Re-instate zip wire seat.

Mr McGuinness proposed the Council endorse the preventative action recommendation and to re-instate the zip wire, Mr Goss seconded and all voted in favour.

The Chairman reported that the Council is still waiting for the report from the original play inspector. It was agreed to write another letter giving the inspector 7 days to

respond and advise that we will be sending a copy of the report to the professional body of play inspectors.

### **30 OTHER PROPERTIES**

The Ranger reported on other properties, as follows:-

- Planters to be installed in four places around the village
- New path created at Knowle Park
- Football pitches had been seeded and new drain to be installed
- Car park lines repainted at Lapstone
- Uncultivated plot letters sent to A5, B15, B8, C8E, C9 and C18.

This was all the business and the meeting finished at 8.50 pm.

Signed ..... Chairman