



FLEET TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE RECREATION, LEISURE AND AMENITIES COMMITTEE

**Wednesday 16 October 2013 at 7.30pm
The Harlington**

PRESENT

Paul Einchcomb (Chairman)
Grahame Chenery
Sue Fisher
Steve Forster
Alan Oliver
Bob Schofield
Sue Tilley
George Woods

Also Present

Alex Robins Operations Manager
James Corrigan Town Clerk
Sheila Rayner Committee Clerk

ITEM 1 APOLOGIES

There was an apology for absence from Cllr Lewis

ITEM 2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no Declarations of Interest

ITEM 3 QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

There were no questions from the members of the public

ITEM 4 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The Committee received and approved as a correct record, the minutes of the RLA Committee meeting held on 17 July 2013

In answer to a question regarding item 10 in the Minutes- Request for Allotments- it was reported that the Hart Allotment Association was in advanced discussions with a farmer in Hitches Lane (not Edenbrook). Applicants on an allotment waiting list had been invited to the Hart Allotment Society AGM in November 2013, a number of other new allotment sites were also nearing completion in the surrounding area.

ITEM 5 THE HARLINGTON AND ANCELLS FARM COMMUNITY CENTRE REPORT

The Committee received the report of the Operations Manager for the quarter relating to July-Sept 2013

The following matters were discussed:

- Retro Back to School-attempting to find the audience with a view to scheduling another event in 2014
- Ticketing issues regarding software/server problems had now been overcome
- On line sales now going well
- Confirmation that the soft wheels to be used in the roller disco had been successfully tested on the flooring but any damage incurred would be at the hirer's risk
- The proposed purchase of lighting was limited to an amount that would allow the stage to be 'washed' in light. This would cost approx. £2,000 but there would need to be further gradual investment. Possible grant funding was being investigated for this.
- Confirmed that the audience capacity for the Panto was approximately 7500. Tickets were still selling every day, now at the full rate. Breaking- even in the first year would be acceptable in the view of the Operations Manager. A date had been set in November to consider any necessary show date cancellations
- The Jazz Club ticket price had been raised to £10 but was still selling out
- Public getting used to the new location of the Box Office
- Appreciation for the recent brochure was expressed and it was confirmed that a second edition was being drafted covering December 2013-summer 2014
- Confirmed that the availability of ticket vouchers was being investigated

The Committee noted the report of the Operations Manager for the quarter relating to July-Sept 2013

ITEM 6 PROPOSED 3G FOOTBALL FACILITY AT ANCELL PARK

The Town Clerk presented a report on the proposed Third Generation Football pitch (3G) at Ancells Park.

Fleet Town Council had been approached by Hart District Council (HDC) at the beginning of the year to look at delivering a full size Third Generation Artificial Football pitch (3G) on Fleet Town Council's (FTC) land with approximately £160,000 of developer gain funds (S.106) that was available as result of new housing in Elvetham Heath.

The Council has previously agreed that the only suitable location within its estate for this facility is at Ancells Farm. A condition from Sport England when commenting on the planning application will be that the pitch cannot be at the expense of a grass pitch, or if it is there will have to be significant justification.

It was confirmed that the funding would be returned to the Developer if it was unused or used for anything other than football provision.

The Town Clerk explained the three options available to the Council and referred to the importance of engaging the services of Steve Wells Associates, to assist with the process.

There was a lengthy debate about the various options and issues relating to the size of the facility, fencing, lighting, electronic key management and after careful consideration it was

RESOLVED

- That Steve Wells Associates are employed with immediate effect to develop the project and complete the planning application at a total cost of £9500
- That the consultation process be agreed to and that a special RLA Committee be agreed to on the 18th November 2013
- That the Football Foundation are approached for match funding if needed
- That Sport England are approached to seek their support to the project
- That displays, plans and leaflets are prepared to assist with the consultation process, and staff are paid to deliver the leaflets all at a cost of no more than £1500

ITEM 7 OAKLEY PARK FOOTBALL FACILITIES

The Town Clerk presented a report regarding a request from The Chairman to permit Aldershot Town FC Community Trust free use of Oakley Park Football facilities.

Aldershot Town FC Community Trust was advised on the 17 April 2013 that the approval of its free use of the Parks for the Soccer at Six project in the summer was conditional upon "Supplying Fleet Town Council with the names and addresses of all the free places given as part of the scheme and the number of paying customers who take part in the scheme."

Since this time the Council has reviewed its policy on donations and requires all applicants for grants to complete the Grants application form which can only be considered by the P&F Committee.

On the 11th September ATFCCT were reminded of this condition when they applied by email to utilise the facilities again. They were also advised that free use in the future requires a grant application and an application form and grant policy were sent. This e mail was acknowledged as received.

As it is not in the RLA terms of reference or delegated powers to make a decision on this matter, a recommendation could be made to the Town Council meeting only.

The use of the pitches for the holiday project is already advertised on the ATFCCT website at a price of £49 for three days attendance or £20 per day.

Following careful consideration it was,

RECOMMENDED to Council

That ATFCCT be invited to submit to the Council by 21 October 2013 evidence of the number of people who have who have benefitted from taking up places free of charge, as per the condition of the previous grant.

ITEM 8 CONVERSION OF CARNIVAL HALL

The Operations Manager reminded the members that with the loss of Squirrels Pre-School, the Carnival Hall has been left with no regular hirer and runs the risk of being a large un-hireable space. The room is very unattractive and expensive to hire. The floor is in a very poor state of repair and has now lifted again in the centre of the room, taking it out of action until more money is spent on a temporary repair. It was suggested that the Carnival Hall is

un-marketable in its current state and that it should be converted into a dance and rehearsal studio to further market the venue as an arts and entertainment centre, and move a stage closer to giving it a proper identity within the community.

Following a full discussion covering such matters as potential market, profitability, marketing, storage and maintenance issues, it was

RESOLVED

To authorise the conversion of the Carnival Hall into a dance studio and to accept the quote given by NJH Services as a contractor for this work at a cost of £13,041, with an additional 10% contingency allowance, the expenditure to be funded by General Reserves and any funds obtained from potential grants

ITEM 9 REDUCTION OF RVS BUILDING USE DUE TO FUNDING CUTS

A report was presented which dealt with the suggestion that because RVS funding had been curtailed nationally, that the number of hours that the RVS use the current building be reduced with a commensurate reduction in hire charges.

The possibilities of attracting other users to hire the vacated area were discussed together with the great benefits to the Council of the storage space that would be released for use by the Council.

After careful consideration it was,

RESOLVED

To authorise the Harlington Manager to negotiate a community rate with reduced usage with the RVS in line with the 2013/14 budget so that the building can be used for out-of- hours meetings, additional hiring, and improved backstage storage facilities

ITEM 10 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 15 January 2014 at **7.30pm** at The Harlington

There being no further business the meeting closed at 10.15 pm

Signed.....

Date.....