



FLEET TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE RECREATION, LEISURE AND AMENITIES COMMITTEE

Wednesday 21 December 2016

The Harlington

PRESENT

Councillors:

Paul Einchcomb (Chairman)
Steve Cantle
Kathy Jasper
Alan Oliver
Bob Schofield
Jonathan Wright

Also Present

Janet Stanton-Town Clerk
Ben Crane-Facilities and Open Spaces Manager
Sheila Rayner-Committee Clerk

Dave Harrison -Friends of Basingbourne Park

Lorna Grist-local resident
Elliot Grist-local resident
Chris Ladbrook-local resident
Mr Knight-local resident
Mr Palmer-local resident

RLA Dec 16 ITEM 1 APOLOGIES

There was an apology for absence from Cllr Gotel

RLA Dec 16 ITEM 2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Einchcomb-Item 8-Member of Friends of Basingbourne

RLA Dec16 ITEM 3 QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

Mr Harrison (Friends of Basingbourne) asked when the 'springer' item of play equipment in Basingbourne would be fixed. It was confirmed that this was on order.

RLA Dec 16 ITEM 4 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the meeting of the RLA committee held on 21 September 2016 were approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record

RLA Dec 16 ITEM 5 THE HARLINGTON AND ANCELLS FARM COMMUNITY CENTRE(considered after item 8)

The report of the General Manager of the Harlington for the period Sept-Nov 2016 was presented

Members discussed various aspects of the report including:

- The success of the quarter for Harlington business
- The increase in the number of 100% capacity performances

RESOLVED

That the report of the General Manager be noted and that it be requested that the inclusion of an overall average capacity rating for the quarter be included in future reports

RLA Dec 16 ITEM 6 FACILITIES AND OPEN SPACES MANAGER'S REPORT

Members thanked the FOSM for his report and commended all his efforts to create Santa's Grotto and the success of the picket fence around the Christmas Tree

The report was discussed and in particular:

- The youth shelter at Ancells Farm
- Confirmation that water supplies were monitored through the billing process

RESOLVED

To note the report of the FOSM

RLA Dec 16 ITEM 7 CEMETERY OFFICER'S REPORT

The members considered the report of the Cemetery Officer which provided an update on the following matters:

- Central shelter
- Shade loving turf
- Main entrance improvements
- Broken and sunken graves
- Area around the central area
- Burial plots and extension of exclusive rights
- Grounds maintenance

It was confirmed that income was on target and that brick planters would be built in January. Winter flowering troughs had been planted and a bin store would be installed

RESOLVED

That the report be noted

RLA Dec 16 ITEM 8 BASINGBOURNE DEVELOPMENT PLAN (taken after item 4)

Cllr Schofield thanked Dave Harrison (Friends of Basingbourne) for his endurance in finalising the development plan.

It was reported that much of the discussion element of the plan had been removed and that the intention was for there to be an annual meeting to deal with any maintenance issues which need not form part of the development plan.

The plan was to be 'visionary', identify gaps and to assist with grant applications .

The main objective of the plan was to increase use of the park and make it more attractive across the generations

It was recognised that that it was important to find a balance between increasing public use whilst protecting the heathland ecology.

It appeared that the only contentious issue was the proposal to clear the woodland walkway up to the canal tow path and the road near the bridge

Access could not be provided to the canal as the canal owners were concerned about possible erosion of the canal bank

It was confirmed that the Heathland Management Plan covered SINC's and that the development plan proposals fitted well with the Local Plan and Green Space strategy

Local residents who were present raised concerns about the proposal to clear the woodland walkway. They believed deer, badgers foxes and birds would be disturbed although an assurance was given that HDC ecology adviser had no concerns about the proposals. The residents confirmed that the existing walkway was generally accessible for 48 weeks of the year and saw no necessity for the works to clear the woodland walk

It was confirmed that the orchard proposal had not been supported so had been removed from the proposal.

There was a wide ranging discussion about wildlife, possible encouragement of young people and drug users to congregate near the woodland walkway, fencing near the Sentinel land and general nuisance in the area that local residents put effort into keeping uncluttered and attractive

Of the plan in general, Cllr Schofield reminded the meeting that it was largely 'aspirational' and that FTC had no treasure trove of funds to carry out many of the proposals

Following careful consideration regarding the local residents' concerns it was

RESOLVED

That with the following provisos:

- a) Remove any reference to cycling along the cleared woodland walkway
- b) Liaise with HDC ecology adviser when dealing with any works that are located close to the known badger sett
- c) Plant holly and thorn to protect residents' properties where possible

The Basingbourne Development Plan be recommended to Council for adoption in January 2017

RLA Dec 16 ITEM 9 OAKLEY PARK DEVELOPMENT PLAN

Members received and considered the annotated Oakley Park Development Plan which displayed the proposed changes to the original draft

RESOLVED

That the Oakley Park Development Plan, amended as shown, be recommended to Council for adoption in January 2017

RLA Dec 16 ITEM 10 PROPOSED CAPITAL WORKS

The members received and considered a list of possible capital works

It was agreed that those works which were supported should be prioritised into the following categories:

Short term 0-5 years
Medium term 5-10 years
Long term 10+ years

Members considered each capital work item one-by-one and assigned a time frame. During debate issues such as S106 matters, items with a value below £1,000 to be regarded as an operational maintenance item and the need for a business case to be made before certain items received a go-ahead, were raised

RESOLVED

That the list of capital works as prioritised by the committee be recommended for adoption to Council on 4 January 2017

RLA Dec 16 ITEM 11 RIGHTS OF WAY PRIORITY CUTTING LISTS

The members noted the HCC Rights of Way priority cutting proposals in 2017

RLA Dec16 ITEM 12 CALTHORPE PARK PAVILION

Cllr Cantle presented a verbal update on the progress regarding a possible new pavilion in Calthorpe Park

The latest proposal (Version O) provided for a two-storey building with access from the side with the path from Crookham Road

Architectural depictions of the elevations were circulated together with floor plans that showed 3 indoor bowling lanes.

It was hoped that the proposals would be submitted to the FA by March/April 2017

The scheme had not yet been costed but the guesstimate was in the region of £1.8m-£2m

The Town Clerk emphasised the importance of being aware of VAT implications

Currently no sponsor had been secured and this search was continuing. There was however no agreement over the possible direct involvement of developers.

It was hoped that funding to match the FA contribution would be forthcoming, possibly by the use of S106 funds

The current situation was noted

RLA Dec 16 ITEM 13 ROSPA REPORTS

The 2016 ROSPA reports were made available for inspection by members

RLA Dec 16 ITEM 14 TREE SURVEYS

The tree surveys for Ancells Farm, Basingbourne Park, Calthorpe Park, Oakley Park, The Views, The Cemetery and Dukes Mead amenity land were noted.

Members commented that the removal of tree stumps should be minimised and that a policy on tree replacement should perhaps be considered.

RLA Dec 16 ITEM 15 REPORT OF THE TOWN CLERK

The report of the Town Clerk was noted

RLA Dec 16 ITEM 16 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the committee will be held on Wednesday 15 March 2017 at the Harlington at 7pm

There being no further business to be transacted, the meeting closed at 10.10 pm

Chairman.....Date.....