



FLEET TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE RECREATION, LEISURE AND AMENITIES COMMITTEE

Wednesday 27 September 2017

The Harlington

PRESENT

Councillors:

Alan Oliver (In the Chair)
Denis Gotel
Kathy Jasper
Bob Schofield
Sharyn Wheale
Jonathan Wright

Also Present

Janet Stanton-Town Clerk
Alex Robins-Harlington General Manager
Ben Crane-Facilities and Open Spaces Manager
Sheila Rayner-Committee Clerk

Cllr Forster-HDC/HCC

Mike Bye-Friends of Oakley Park
Dave Harrison-Friends of Basingbourne

Mrs Read-Local resident

RLA Sept 2017 ITEM 1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There was an apology for absence from Cllr Einchcomb

RLA Sept 2017 ITEM 2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest

RLA Sept 2017 ITEM 3 QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

There were no questions from the public

RLA Sept 2017 ITEM 4 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the meeting of the RLA committee held on 14 June 2017 were approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

RLA Sept 2017 ITEM 5 THE HARLINGTON AND ANCELLS FARM COMMUNITY CENTRE (taken after item 9)

The report of the General Manager of the Harlington for the period June-Aug 2017 was presented and the following matter was discussed:

- Continuing problems with low income from the activities of the coffee shop including the difficulty in justifying additional staff particularly a bar/ coffee shop manager. Recruitment to this post had therefore been suspended. It was agreed that the coffee shop served only as a path way to services rather than a destination in its own right

RESOLVED

To note the report

RLA Sept 2017 ITEM 6 FACILITIES AND OPEN SPACES MANAGER'S REPORT

Members received the report of the FOSM for the last quarter

The report was discussed and in particular:

- Damage/repairs to Basingbourne Pavilion
- Possible plumbing issue in the pavilion which may lead to the replacement of taps
- The sink hole in Calthorpe Park and the suggestion that FA assistance with the cost of provision of topsoil be investigated
- The possible need to replace the stage box doors on the debrillator at Oakley Pavilion
- A general discussion about ROSPA reports and the intention to report back on any necessary actions arising from them
- The need to investigate incursions into Oakley parking by residents bordering the boundary and taking appropriate action

RESOLVED

- To note the report of the FOSM
- That an ad hoc working group be set up to assist with the details of the Grounds Maintenance contract
- That a 'walk round' be arranged with councillors to identify any potential problems

RLA Sept 2017 ITEM 7 CEMETERY OFFICER'S REPORT

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

- South and South East in Bloom awards
- Grave digger contract
- Action Plan

RESOLVED

- a) To note the report of the Cemetery Officer
- b) To approve the contents of the brief for the Garden of Remembrance in order to start the tender process for Stages 1 and 2

RLA Sept 2017 ITEM 8 PARKING IN CALTHORPE PARK

It was reported that problems had arisen for pedestrians and with the nursery, cricket club and tennis courts due to cars being parked on the cycleway in Calthorpe Park

As the cycleway was now an adopted highway, members were asked to consider the installation of parking restrictions in the area.

Members discussed the possible implications for staff at Campbell Place and footballers, and the possible inclusion of the cricket club bays. Cllr Oliver undertook to explain the need for the proposals to the Football club

RESOLVED

- a) To seek the installation of double yellow lines with a single band which allows the immediate issue of parking tickets for the length of the cycleway/pavement from RRN to the Calthorpe Park access gate beyond the Scout Dens.
- b) To seek the parking restrictions of Mon-Fri 3 hr max stay/no return within 3 hrs for the parking bays (including those on Fleet Cricket Club leased land). Subject to legal confirmation by HDC
- c) The private tarmac carpark adjacent to Fleet CC pavilion is excluded from all parking restrictions under this resolution
- d) Initially, wardens be asked to take a soft approach in introducing the impact of the parking restrictions in the area by advising transgressors that failure to comply after the first 2 weeks of operation will result in a PCN
- e) The chairman and vice-chairman of the RLA Committee be authorised to approve the terms of the proposed draft Traffic Order

RLA Sept 2017 ITEM 9 ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR-BENCH IN STOCKTON AVENUE (taken after item 4)

The members considered a request from a local resident, to remove a memorial bench in Stockton Avenue which was attracting a number of local youths. This had led to bad and abusive behaviour, noise, litter, and general nuisance.

An opposing request had also been received, from another local resident, to retain the bench

The comments of the police were also made available to members.

Members discussed the situation and whilst they shared and sympathised with the concerns of the local resident there was a general sense that it was not appropriate to move the bench but rather more that the problem should be tackled by the police and community safety team. It was also recognised that the bench provided a welcome resting place for older residents walking into the town

Members discussed powers associated with litter dropping, the need to monitor the area, and a more robust approach from the police

The installation of bins was also discussed which it was recognised had benefits and dis-benefits

The local resident was invited to add any further comments. The activities in the area including evidence of drug dealing/taking, noise and abusive behaviour were mentioned together with the fear and intimidation this brought.

The amount of evidence that had been brought to the attention of the police and the involvement of the Community Safety Team was reported

The members hoped that the start of the new college/university term and the colder darker evenings would help to reduce the incidence of young people gathering in the area. The view was also expressed that it was likely that if moved on the problem would simply be displaced to another location

Cllr Oliver agreed to arrange for the area to be targeted by the litter reduction team

Members discussed the range of issues associated with the problem and following careful consideration

RESOLVED

- a) To not agree to the request to re-site the memorial bench in Stockton Avenue
- b) To work with the police, the community safety team, the litter reduction team, making use of CCTV where available, to take a robust approach to deal with the problem
- c) To inform the local police sergeant that evidence has been passed to the PCSO over the summer months concerning all the activities at the bench

RLA Sept 2017 ITEM 10 CAFÉ IN CALTHORPE PARK

The members considered a request to permit the opening of a café in the 'hut' at Calthorpe Park

Issues relating to planning, flooding, health and safety, VAT and business rates were identified. It was therefore

RESOLVED

To refuse permission to open a café in the 'hut' in Calthorpe Park

RLA Sept 2017 ITEM 11 SOUTH AND SOUTH EAST IN BLOOM

The successes at the South and South East in Bloom award ceremony were noted. HDC will be advised of the successes and they will all be included in the next newsletter

RLA Sept 2017 ITEM 12 ROSPA REPORTS

The ROSPA reports were received and it was noted that any necessary follow-up actions would be referred back to a future meeting of the committee

RLA Sept 2017 ITEM 13 TENNIS-UPDATE ON TENNIS IN CALTHORPE PARK

Members were pleased to note the continuing success of the tennis courts usage. Opportunities for further funding from the LTA was under investigation with regard to the possible installation of floodlights and a pavilion

RLA Sept 2017 Item 14 REPORT OF THE TOWN CLERK

The report of the Town Clerk was noted together with information relating to installation costs of a fly mobile in Oakley Park to be purchased from funds raised by the Friends group, which would then be transferred to the ownership of the Council

RLA Sept 2017 ITEM 15 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Committee will be held on Wednesday 20 December 2017 at the Harlington at 7pm

Under the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 exclusion of the public in accordance with Section 1(2) and by reason of the confidential nature of the business of the Committee, the Press and Public were excluded from the Meeting

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