



FLEET TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE RECREATION, LEISURE AND AMENITIES COMMITTEE

Wednesday 15 March 2017

The Harlington

PRESENT

Councillors:

Paul Einchcomb (Chairman)
Denis Gotel
Alan Oliver
Bob Schofield

Also Present

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

Dave Harrison -Friends of Basingbourne Park
Mike Bye-Friends of Oakley Park
Alan Freeman-Fleet Cricket Club

RLA Mar 2017 ITEM 1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There was an apology for absence from Cllr Wright

RLA Mar 2017 ITEM 2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest

RLA Mar 2017 ITEM 3 QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

Dave Harrison, representing Friends of Basingbourne, asked for an update on the provision of replacement monkey bars in the playground. It was reported that this item of equipment was no longer available and alternative options were under consideration. The matter would be progressed by the FOSM.

A further question was asked regarding a contribution by way of a grant from Church Crookham Parish Council to assist with the funding of play equipment . The Chairman undertook to progress this matter with the Town Clerk

RLA Mar 2017 ITEM 4 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

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

It was confirmed that no cycling was to be permitted along the cleared walkway mentioned in the Basingbourne Development Plan (item 8 (a))

RLA Mar 2017 ITEM 5 THE HARLINGTON AND ANCELLS FARM COMMUNITY CENTRE

The report of the General Manager of the Harlington for the period Dec 2016 - Feb 2017 was presented

Members were very pleased to note how well the Harlington had performed during the December 2016-February 2017 quarter. The shorter pantomime period had allowed more party nights to be arranged over the Christmas period which had proved to improve the overall performance of the venue and this had continued into January 2017.

The General Manager was congratulated on this achievement

RESOLVED

To note the report

RLA Mar 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:

- The flooding of Ancells Farm pavilion due to a burst mains water pipe contributed to cold weather and the possible failure of the boiler anti-frost setting. It was confirmed that the incident was mainly covered by insurance with a top up by FTC of £155 met from the maintenance budget
- Friends of Basingbourne thanked the FOSM for the repair of the springer in the playground
- The request from two football clubs to extend the playing season. This request, in consultation with the Chairman, had not been agreed in line with the FTC policy not to permit bookings after the first weekend of the May Bank holiday. This would allow the grounds maintenance contractor to proceed with booking of specialist equipment for use after that weekend on vital pitch maintenance work
- The reassessment of the risk associated with trees along the route of the woodland walkway, the use of the walkway by school children and additional litter in Basingbourne Parkn

RESOLVED

- a) To approve the commissioning of a tree survey along the woodland walk in Basingbourne
- b) To note the report of the FOSM

RLA Mar 2017 ITEM 7 CEMETERY OFFICER'S REPORT

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

- Burial plots and extension of exclusive rights
- Central shelter improvements
- Bin sheds
- Unused graves over 75 years
- Grounds maintenance
- Shade loving turf
- Grave maintenance of neglected graves

Particular attention was paid to the requirement for land to be identified for use for burials once the cemetery was full.

It was reported that 10-15 plots (pre 1929) would be coming back into use and every effort was made to make the best use of the existing site.

Members referred to the lack of provision in the draft Local Plan and agreed that the possibility of identifying land and a possible SANG site should be explored with Hart District Council. It was acknowledged that it may become necessary for FTC to acquire land beyond the FTC boundary.

RESOLVED

- a) To seek the assistance of HDC in identifying land or a possible SANG site for future use as a burial ground
- b) To identify possible sites close to but outside the boundary of FTC
- c) To report back on progress at the next meeting on 14 June 2017
- d) To note the update report of the Cemetery Officer

RLA Mar 2017 ITEM 8 FRIENDS OF BASINGBOURNE-REQUEST FOR PERMISSION TO CUT OR UPROOT PLANTS

Members considered a request from The Friends of Basingbourne for the Council to grant standing permission to up-root small plants and trees within Basingbourne and the canal side woodlands.

Members acknowledged that this was the formalisation of a practice that had already been sensibly operated by the Friends group.

Whilst agreeing that the treatment of holly near the boundaries of properties which was seen by residents as an anti-burglary device should be carried out with care, it was

RESOLVED

The Council grant standing permission to the Friends of Basingbourne to up-root small plants and trees within Basingbourne and the canal-side woodlands whilst working as part of a working group in hi-viz jackets etc

RLA Mar 2017 ITEM 9 FLEET CRICKET CLUB-PRACTICE NET

Mr Alan Freeman of Fleet Cricket Club was present to seek the Council's approval to the principle and preferred location of cricket nets proposed to be installed by the club

A site plan and report were presented which showed the sites which had been rejected and the two remaining sites that the club proposed.

One site was within the area already leased to the club whilst the club's preferred location was outside the leased area near the hardstanding area currently used for the Carnival , the Fleet half marathon etc

Members discussed the merits and de-merits of both sites and were aware of the tree removal implications of the site within the leased area.

Some members favoured leaving as much of the area of the park to remain accessible to the public as possible and following discussion and careful consideration, it was

RESOLVED

- a) To approve the installation of cricket nets by the Fleet cricket Club
- b) To approve the siting of the nets within the area already leased to the cricket club and that the FOSM provide any possible assistance with the Club's arrangements for the removal of the affected trees

RLA Mar 2017 ITEM 10 FOOTBALL CLUB PAVILION

Cllr Oliver reported on the outcome of a meeting held with the FA and Fleet Football Club regarding the proposal to secure funding for a 2 storey pavilion in Basingbourne

The latest plans had been costed at £2m whilst any grant from the FA was unlikely to exceed £650,000. In view of this gap it may be necessary to revisit the option to provide a single storey pavilion for the football club.

The club was currently experiencing financial difficulties and the survival of these was taking the club's attention.

Discussions would continue with the club and FA but there did not appear to be an imminent opportunity for the scheme to progress

Discussions with the FA had revealed that FA grant funding may be available to the FC/FTC for repairs to football pitches

RESOLVED

To continue discussions with the FA and Fleet Football Club with a view to obtaining funding for repairs to football pitches and a possible funding of a more modest pavilion scheme

RLA Mar 2017 ITEM 11 PLAYGROUND SAFETY REPORTS

Members received and noted playground safety reports which reported all risks as low in the FTC playgrounds

RLA Mar 2017 ITEM 12 REPORT OF THE TOWN CLERK

The Town Clerk gave a verbal report on the following matter:

- Supporting a fund raising request to Tesco for equipment in Oakley Park by the Friends of Oakley Park

RLA Mar 2017 ITEM 13 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the committee will be held on Wednesday 14 June 2017 at the Harlington at 7pm

There being no further business to be transacted, the meeting closed at 8.33 pm

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