

Minutes of a meeting of the **SPORT, RECREATION and CEMETERY** Committee held at the Town Hall, The Broadway, Crowborough on Monday 25th January 2010 at 7.30pm.

Present	Councillors	Paul Adams Leigh Colbran (7.40pm) Peter Cowie Philip Fermor Anita Kerwin-Nye * Kay Moss Julian Salmon Liz Scott Mark Symons Sandra Timms	Chairman
Also present		Linda Butcher David Foot Susan Barnard Malcolm Place Peter Zucchetti Jim Wellman 13 additional members of the public 1 press	Town Clerk Operations Manager Operations Administrator Crowborough Locomotive Society Allotment holder Crowborough Cricket Club

* *Denotes non attendance*

Having ascertained which members of the public wished to address the meeting, the Chairman elected to alter the order of Public Participation on the Agenda.

APOLOGIES

None.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Paul Adams declared a Personal Interest in the football pitches and a Prejudicial Interest in the kiosk at Goldsmiths due to family involvement and announced that he would therefore abstain from voting to adopt the Minutes of the previous meeting.

Cllr Philip Fermor declared a Personal Interest in Owlsbury allotments because he lives adjacent to the site.

Cllr Julian Salmon declared a Personal Interest in the Cricket Club because he knows Jim Wellman personally.

9.42 pm – Cllr Kay Moss declared a Personal Interest in Area 2 because she lives opposite.

MINUTES

Meeting – 23rd November 2009

5650 **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting held on 23rd November 2009 as confirmed be signed by the Chairman.

Matters Outstanding - None

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Crowborough Locomotive Society

Chairman Malcolm Pace and colleagues addressed the Committee regarding repairs after vandalism, plus a proposed extension to the station building.

Vandalism over the Christmas period included the steaming bay being attacked with a sledgehammer, two break-ins to the station building and the destruction of the perimeter fence. The Society is proposing the installation of 1.5m high steel fencing to replace the broken wooden fence, but, also, an extension of the fencing from the bus stop to the bridge. This will prevent casual access and vandalism to the boating lake and railway. The Society has requested that the Town Council consider funding the material cost of the fence at a cost of approximately £4,000 to the Town Council.

It was **AGREED** to defer a decision to the next meeting regarding Town Council funding for the fence to allow all anti-vandalism options to be explored. Suggestions for consideration included deterrent planting, CCTV and security lighting.

The Society is also seeking the permission of the Town Council, as landlord, to proceed with an extension to the station canopy and the installation of an additional store on a corner of the site.

5651 **RESOLVED** to allow the Society to proceed with the proposed improvements to the canopy extension.

It was also **AGREED** that the Town Clerk would find out if planning permission is necessary, given that the improvements would be to Town Council property, and report back to the Society.

Four members of the Locomotive Society left the meeting at 7.55pm.

Mr. Zucchetti – use of pesticides and herbicides on allotments

Mr. Zucchetti addressed the committee regarding his concerns at the widespread use of pesticides and herbicides on allotments and in public spaces in general. He is particularly concerned at the toxicity of metaldehyde, a component present in blue slug pellets, which poses a particular danger to children and wildlife and contaminates soil and water. Organic growers are adversely affected by the run-off from non-organic plots. Mr. Zucchetti asked that the Town Council urge allotment holders to use fewer pesticides and to consider organic alternatives.

It was **AGREED** that Mr. Zucchetti would prepare a leaflet detailing organic alternatives to slug pellets and other chemicals, which will be distributed to allotment holders at renewal time.

Cllr Paul Adams suggested that Mr Zuchetti be put in contact with Barry Kemp with a view to them joining forces in informing the allotments holders about the importance of safeguarding wildlife and the alternatives to chemical pesticides. Cllr Julian Salmon would speak to the Owlsbury Association about the issue of pesticides and herbicides. Cllr Liz Scott thought it would be useful to hold a workshop.

Skate park users

A group of 10 skate park users attended the meeting in order to express their gratitude to the Town Council for the work that had been undertaken to improve the skate park. The skaters' thanks and appreciation were acknowledged by the Committee. Use of the park is increasing all the time, including by out of town skaters, and the group has set up a group on Facebook.

It was **AGREED** that further work needed to be done to the site including completion of the concrete surfacing of existing structures, providing a semi-circular 'turn around', moving the fun box to an agreed location, providing a path to the park to reduce mud at the site and providing a broom to keep the site swept, which will hopefully be kept at the Leisure Centre; the work to be funded on savings from other SRC projects. The group informed the committee that the plaque in memory of Tony Croft was coming along.

The skate park group and Mr. Zucchetti left the meeting at 8.27pm.

UPDATE OF RESOLUTIONS AND ACTIONS

Mr. & Mrs. Nichols' hedge

David Foot met Mr. & Mrs. Nichols on 24th November about the hedge which has now been cut.

5584 – Cricket Club nets

Further to a telephone call between Cllr Peter Cowie and Jim Wellman concerning the Cricket Club nets, Jim Wellman addressed the Committee regarding his concern at the Town Council plans.

He expressed his regret at the Club's delay in dealing with Mr. & Mrs. Nichols' broken window, due entirely to a lack of communication. An apology has been made to the Nichols in this respect.

It would cost £20,000 to replace the cricket nets and resurface the ground, which the Club can ill afford, especially as it is hoping to relocate within the next two years. A portable net is not considered suitable because of the lack of a suitable surface on which to use it. Jim Wellman maintains the nets himself during the cricket season and believes that they can be kept fit for purpose for at least another couple of years. Because of easy access via the Town Council yard, the nets can be used and abused by unauthorised people.

It was **AGREED** that David Foot would take steps to ensure that the gate to the Council yard is kept closed when no staff are present on site.

It was **AGREED** that Jim Wellman will regularly inspect and maintain the nets out of season or arrange to have them taken down.

It was **AGREED** that the Town Clerk will inform Mr. & Mrs. Nichols of this change of plan. The earlier resolution to remove the nets and replace them with a portable net can be overridden due to new information becoming available i.e. that the existing nets are not at the end of their lifespan.

Jim Wellman left the meeting at 8.53pm.

5512 – Repair to boundary behind the old goal post shed

The repair to the boundary fence and hedge planting behind the old goal post shed has now been completed. A hole has, however, been meticulously cut into the new fence by persons unknown to create access, although it is only 20-30 yards from the gate.

It was **AGREED** to leave the situation as it is.

5513 – Toilet block

Watts have started on the construction of the toilet block although it has been delayed due to the snow.

5514 – Adams Field play area

The only outstanding item is the tarmac MUGA and this has been delayed because of the snow. A footpath also still needs to be created. The site should be completed by Easter.

It was **AGREED** that all bodies that have made financial contributions to the project should be involved in the press launch.

David Foot reported that quotes for the improvement of the toddlers' playground were due by this Friday (29th), but that this work would probably not be completed by Easter.

5515 and 5587 – Natural burial working party

It was noted that an extension is to be made to the natural burial site in Brighton due to its popularity. The working party is due to meet on 1st and 22nd February and 15th March at 4.30pm.

5518 – Running track

Thorne's started work on the running track site on 10th November 2009. This was delayed due to snow but the work is now continuing and is due to be completed before the end of March.

It was **AGREED** that the barrier onto the running track area should be kept locked to prevent unauthorised vehicles subsequently driving onto, and damaging the site. A suitable sign should also be erected prohibiting vehicles onto the site.

Dilapidations Report – Wolfe Pavilion

The roof overhang support has been vandalised.

It was **AGREED** that the minimum should be spent on maintaining the Wolfe Pavilion over the next couple of years until the Cricket Club relocate. Council could then consider its future and a more appropriate structure put in its place. David Foot is to investigate either removing the overhang altogether or boxing it in.

It was **AGREED** that a separate record of the cost of vandalism will be presented to Full Council and that the public should be made aware of it.

The member of the press left the meeting at 9.15pm.

5588 – Creation of 'sleeper' wall for casual football

The cost of providing such a wall would be in the region of £1,200 (£900 for timber plus five steel joists at £60 each). The wall would be 12' high. The cost could be offset against the cost of repairing damage to the pavilion caused by footballers playing against it.

It was **AGREED** that Councillors should report back before the next meeting with ideas regarding the ideal location of a 'sleeper' wall, two ideas were Area 1 or at right angles to the pavilion, the latter giving a hard area for 'players'.

An attempt will be made to discuss the idea with some of the casual footballers. A site at Wolfe could also be considered. A decision will be made at the next meeting.

5590 – Larger plots at Owlsbury allotments

Two current allotment holders have confirmed their interest in taking larger plots. There is sufficient space for 14 large plots, each four times the size of a standard plot, as well as 50 additional standard plots. To expand further will necessitate extending the deer-proof fencing. The water supply system is to be extended this season.

The Town Clerk outlined her current policy regarding the allocation of plots at Owlsbury to people living outside the parish. This involves consulting with other clerks so as not to undermine any effort at building up waiting lists in order to justify the purchase of land for allotments in their areas.

It was **AGREED** that the Owlsbury Association consider imposing a radius around the Owlsbury site, people living outside of which would not be able to obtain an allotment at the site.

OTHER AREAS

Adams Field

Orbit South has announced that £33,865 has been awarded to improve the toddler area at Adams Field. As the terms of the grant are quite standard, the Town Clerk and Operations Manager have accepted on behalf of the Town Council.

FINANCE

Management Reports to 30th November 2009 (sent to all Councillors 17.12.09).

5652 **RESOLVED** to adopt the Management Reports as presented.

Management Reports to 31st December 2009 (sent to all Councillors 12.01.10).

5653 **RESOLVED** to adopt the Management Reports as presented.

It was NOTED that Finance and General Purposes committee had approved the Committee's budget for next year bar the cost of replacing the floodlights on the running track. Funds to upgrade the lamps in the existing lights had, however, been included.

It was **AGREED** that, as planning permission has been obtained for two sets of new floodlights for the running track, it should be renewed at the appropriate time to allow the work to be carried out at a later date.

ADDITIONAL LAND

5654 RESOLVED pursuant to Section 1 (2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, that the public and press be excluded from the meeting on the grounds that publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest by reasons of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.

9.42 pm – Cllr Kay Moss declared a Personal Interest in Area 2 because she lives opposite.

The Town Clerk circulated a written report to Councillors.

Rydons – Heatherview

Discussions are ongoing regarding vehicular access to the play area and the possible future maintenance of an area of woodland by the Town Council.

Green Lane

Further discussion and a site visit are to take place regarding a proposed play area on the Green Lane development.

Change of Use

A lengthy, but contradictory and inconclusive, email from WDC has been received regarding the Town Council's application for change of use for land at Summersales and the fate of Areas 2/3.

It was **AGREED** to support the Clerk in her continued endeavours to persuade WDC to support the Council's proposals for use of land at Summersales.

Palesgate Lane

The Chairman reported that further discussions with a resident reportedly interested in selling land off Palesgate Lane have revealed that an application has been made to have the land reclassified as suitable for housing. An update is expected later in the year.

The meeting closed at 10.07pm.