

Minutes of a meeting of the **SPORT, RECREATION and CEMETERY** Committee
held at the Town Hall, The Broadway, Crowborough on Monday 22nd March 2010 at
7.30pm.

Present	Councillors	Paul Adams Leigh Colbran * Peter Cowie Philip Fermor Anita Kerwin-Nye * Kay Moss Julian Salmon (7.35pm) Liz Scott Mark Symons Sandra Timms *	Chairman
Also present	Cllr	Richard Stogdon Linda Butcher David Foot Susan Barnard Paul Martin Anne Sutherland	E.S.C.C. Town Clerk Operations Manager Operations Administrator Allotment appeal Allotment appeal

* *Denotes non attendance*

APOLOGIES

Cllr Leigh Colbran
Cllr Sandra Timms – family commitment.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Paul Adams declared a Prejudicial Interest in the allotment appeals and in any discussion regarding the allocation of allotments to out-of-parish applicants due to personal acquaintance with an out-of-parish plot holder. He announced that he would leave the chamber during discussion of these items.

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

Cllr Kay Moss declared a Personal Interest in the possible extension to the fencing around the Crowborough Locomotive Society's site because she lives opposite.

7.45pm – Cllr Julian Salmon declared a Personal Interest in the issue of out-of-area plot holders because of a personal acquaintance with one.

9.00pm – Cllr Paul Adams declared a Prejudicial Interest in the possibility of redeveloping the Goldsmiths toilet block into a café as his wife runs the Kiosk.

MINUTES

Meeting – 25th January 2010

- 5718 **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting held on 25th January 2010 as confirmed be signed by the Chairman.

Matters Outstanding

No Town Councillors had attended the last meeting of the Youth Action Group, which is working in conjunction with the Pilmer Road Residents Group. It was therefore **AGREED** that it was important for a Councillor to be present at the next Pilmer Road Residents Group meeting.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Mr. Paul Martin – Allotment Appeal

Mr. Martin, an allotment applicant living in Horam, presented his appeal against the decision not to allow him a Crowborough plot. He questioned whether his case had been dealt with fairly given that the Town Clerk's allocation policy had not been fully minuted at the previous SRC Committee meeting and queried whether the Town Clerk's allocation policy was that of the Town Council. Given that, in his opinion, Horam Parish Council would be unlikely to satisfy local demand for allotments in the foreseeable future, the granting of an allotment plot in Crowborough for him would not undermine any effort made by Horam in this regard. Owing to its population size, Horam did not have the same obligation as Crowborough to provide allotment plots. Under an FOI request he had discovered that the six existing out-of-area plot holders had some connection with Crowborough in that they worked in the town, used to live in the town or still had family in the town; as he has a sister and brother-in-law living in Crowborough he argued that his request for a plot should have been granted. As the Town Clerk had not responded to his letter of appeal, he asked the Town Council to overturn the Clerk's decision not to award him a plot.

7.45pm – Cllr Julian Salmon declared a Personal Interest in the issue of out-of-area plot holders because of a personal acquaintance with one.

The Town Clerk explained that Horam has exactly the same responsibility as Crowborough to use best endeavours to provide allotments if a demand exists.

The Chairman confirmed that the Town Clerk's allotment allocation policies are indeed those of the Town Council.

Anne Sutherland – Allotment Appeal

Ms Anne Sutherland, an allotment applicant living in Heathfield, presented her appeal against the decision not to allow her a Crowborough plot. As her application had been refused on the basis that she lived too far away, she argued that the distance from Owlsbury to Heathfield was only a mile or so further than that from Owlsbury to some of the towns and villages in which existing out-of-area plot holders live.

7.50pm – Cllr Paul Adams left the chamber having previously declared a Prejudicial Interest

Committee to consider definitive policy about the allocation of allotment plots from applicants outside the parish boundary.

The Chairman outlined the situation in which a handful of out-of-area applicants had been allocated plots at Owlsbury last summer but stressed that it was the duty of all parish and town councils to try and satisfy allotment demand in their areas. Crowborough Town Council has no obligation to pick up on the shortfalls of other parishes. The existing out-of-area plot holders all comply with more than one of the previously mentioned personal criteria; simply having a family member living in the town does not constitute sufficient reason to be granted a plot.

The Chairman further explained that Crowborough Town Council had borrowed money to acquire the Owlsbury site in order to satisfy the demand for allotments from within the town and has invested further money in the infrastructure of the site. Demand has proved to be such that there is now limited capacity for further expansion at the site.

Concerning the allotment application by Mr. Whitney Griffiths, Mr. Martin's brother-in-law, the Town Clerk queried the fact that Mr. Martin, Miss Sutherland and Mr. Griffiths had all applied for 3 standard plots or 1 large plot at Owlsbury. Mr. Martin confirmed that they were not seeking 9 standard plots or 3 large plots but, in the hope that one of them would be successful in his or her application, they were intending to share 3 standard plots or 1 large plot between them. Mr. Martin stated that Mr. Griffiths often worked outside the country for periods of time, particularly at growing time.

It was **AGREED** that Mr. Griffiths' application would be considered under the new allocation policy and with no time limit for its consideration.

It was **AGREED** that the policy of the Town Council should be to allocate the remaining plots at Owlsbury to Crowborough residents only.

It was **AGREED** that any future change in allotment allocation policy at Owlsbury would be made in consultation with OATS.

- 5719** **RESOLVED** that the appeals made by Paul Martin and Anne Sutherland against being refused allotment plots at Owlsbury should be rejected and that, for the purposes of clarification, the Town Council should not accept any further allotment applicants living more than one mile outside the parish boundary, even if they work in the parish.

Policy decisions on other Owlsbury items e.g. shed size, ponds etc.

The Town Clerk explained that she was still waiting for a definitive answer, in writing, as to whether planning permission would need to be sought for sheds at Owlsbury.

8.22 pm – Cllr Paul Adams re-entered the chamber.

- 5720** **RESOLVED** to defer a decision regarding shed size pending a decision as to whether it would be preferable to have a single storage area.

Regarding polytunnels, a resolution not to allow their use at Owlsbury was narrowly defeated. It was acknowledged that polytunnels are unsightly and increase water consumption. It was therefore

- 5721** **RESOLVED** to consider permission for the use of polytunnels at Owlsbury in consultation with WDC and OATS.

- 5722** **RESOLVED** to consider permission for the use of greenhouses and cold frames at Owlsbury in consultation with WDC and OATS.

It was **AGREED** that the current marquee frame erected on a plot at Owlsbury should be allowed only on the understanding that it is used as a frame for a fruit cage.

It was **NOTED** that allotment holders should “not without the written consent of the Council erect any shed, greenhouse or other structure on the allotment site” but that this condition was not being adhered to.

On the basis that allotments are intended as sites on which to grow food, that standard Owlsbury allotments are not big enough on which to create lasting ponds, that any pond on a plot would require constant topping up with considerable quantities of water, and with consideration for health and safety implications, especially for children, it was

- 5723** **RESOLVED** that ponds should not be permitted on allotment plots at Owlsbury.

UPDATE OF RESOLUTIONS AND ACTIONS

Crowborough Locomotive Society

The Operations Manager reported that the Society is carrying out work to repair the damage caused by vandalism over Christmas in order to be ready to open to the public at Easter.

Crowborough Locomotive Society – planning application

The Town Clerk has advised the Society that a planning application is necessary and this has been submitted and supported by the Planning and Development committee at its meeting on 15th March 2010.

It was **AGREED** to defer obtaining quotes for the fencing, pending the above application.

Mr. Zucchetti – use of pesticides and herbicides on allotments

Mr Zucchetti was asked to prepare a leaflet detailing organic alternatives to slug pellets and other chemicals. The Town Hall has given Mr Zucchetti contact details for Barry Kemp. No leaflet has yet been produced.

5513 – Wolfe toilet block

Although it was reported at the last meeting that Watts had started on the construction of the toilet block at Wolfe recreation ground, the company was unable to continue the work so in the short term the Town Council took over the contracts for construction of the work. Roger Watts co-operated very openly with the Town Council and the project continued seamlessly.

The Operations Manager reported that the roof was in place but not the doors.

5515 and 5587 – Natural Burials

The Natural Burial Working Party has now had two further meetings and is liaising with W.D.C. about planning, E.S.C.C. for highway issues and is in the process of contacting DEFRA and the Environment Agency.

Bysouths and Tester & Jones have contributed to Working Party discussions and a site visit has been organised to Clayton cemetery. Access to the new site is still under consideration.

The Town Clerk reported that WDC has still not replied to the Town Council's request for the Cricket Club to move to Summersales.

Vandalism

The cost of materials to repair damage caused by vandalism at recreation grounds over the last twelve months is £3,219. However, this does not include the cost of the labour involved in carrying out the repairs.

The Operations Manager reported that, over the weekend, further vandalism has occurred at Goldsmiths, where all six doors of the toilet cubicles in the toilet block have been kicked in. This occurred during the day on Saturday and was discovered at lock-up time.

The Chairman suggested converting the toilet block into a café with just one toilet.

9.00pm – Cllr Paul Adams declared a Prejudicial Interest in the possibility of redeveloping the Goldsmiths toilet block into a café as his wife runs the Kiosk.

David Foot confirmed that the existing disabled toilet in the block could be converted for multiple use.

5724 **RESOLVED** to advertise a reward of £100 for information on the perpetrators of the vandalism leading to a conviction, to replace the ruined doors with temporary doors made of marine ply, and to seek quotations for the conversion of the disabled toilet into a multi-use toilet similar to that at Wolfe.

It was **AGREED** that the PCSO's would be contacted and asked to be vigilant at Goldsmiths.

5588 – 'Sleeper' Wall for casual football

The cost to provide such a wall would be in the region of £1,200 [this is made up of £900 for timber plus five steel joists at £60 each]. The wall would be 12' high. At the last meeting it was **AGREED** Councillors would report back ideas of where this wall should be placed. To date no response has been received.

5725 **RESOLVED** that the 'sleeper' wall should be sited at right angles to the existing pavilion wall, against the boundary

OTHER AREAS

Adams Field

The Operations Manager reported that the installation of the MUGA had been delayed by bad weather but that the surface would be tarmaced by Thorne's during the week commencing 19th April.

The Pathfinder funds have been received less a 5% retention.

Jo Stonebrook is to be kept informed of developments.

Silver Jubilee

Work on the footpath and gate has also been held up by bad weather but will follow on from the completion of Adams Field after Easter.

Goldsmiths Running Track

This project has been completed.

Water run-off from Area 1 on to the main road has worsened as a result of drainage improvements in the area of the skate park.

The Operations Manager reported that discussions are still taking place regarding the Town Council taking over responsibility for the small playground and some woodland in conjunction with the housing development in Green Lane. The Town Clerk reported that Section 106 money to upgrade the existing play park at Silver Jubilee and a pedestrian crossing had been requested but these requests had been dismissed by WDC.

FINANCE

Management Reports to 31st January 2010 (sent to all Councillors 10.02.10).

5726 **RESOLVED** to adopt the Management Reports as presented.

Management Reports to 28th February 2010 (sent to all Councillors 08.03.10).

5727 **RESOLVED** to adopt the Management Reports as presented.

The meeting closed at 9.20pm.