

Minutes of a meeting of the **SPORT, RECREATION and CEMETERY** Committee
held at the Town Hall, The Broadway, Crowborough on
Monday 1st August 2011 at 7.30pm.

Present	Councillors	Quentin Burch Michael Cooke Peter Cowie Philip Fermor Beverley Johnstone * Kay Moss * Ronald Reed Wendy Scrace David Shaw Sandra Timms Neil Waller	Chairman Vice Chairman
Also present		David Foot Susan Barnard 20 members of the public 1 member of the press	Operations Manager Operations Administrator

* *Denotes non attendance*

APOLOGIES

Cllr Kay Moss – personal reason.

The Chairman welcomed new Councillors on to the Committee.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Philip Fermor declared a personal interest in Owlsbury Allotments as he lives near the site and a personal interest in Summersales due to his association with the adjacent Forest Fold Baptist Church.

Cllr Wendy Scrace declared a personal interest in the unused allotment at Pilmer because she knows the tenant.

Cllr Neil Waller declared a personal interest in the new lease for Jarvis Brook Recreation Ground as he is also a District Councillor.

Cllr Neil Waller declared a prejudicial interest in the Owlsbury car park extension due to his planning role at Wealden District Council and left the meeting during discussion of this item.

MINUTES

Meeting – 31st May 2011

6226 **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting held on 31st May 2011 as confirmed be signed by the Chairman.

UNCONFIRMED UNTIL NEXT MEETING

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Report from a representative of Crowborough Cricket Club

The Chairman of Crowborough Cricket Club explained that moving to a new site or upgrading the existing site at Wolfe would require extensive funding and should be a joint venture between the Cricket Club and the Town Council. As there is no room for a second square at Wolfe, the Cricket Club's favoured alternative location is at the Green Lane site of Beacon Community College, where there is space for two squares and the ground is already flat. Whilst the Cricket Club is willing to be involved with maintaining the ground, there are issues with the cost of purchase/storage of equipment and health and safety implications for using Town Council equipment.

- 6227** **RESOLVED** to establish a joint working party to create a business plan for the future of the Cricket Club by considering all options relating to sites, facilities and costings and investigating the means by which the necessary funds might be raised. Cllrs Quentin Burch, Peter Cowie, Michael Cooke and David Shaw to be part of the working party along with Mr Easton from the Cricket Club.

Representation by members of Crowborough Skaters Association

The Town Council was thanked by the Skaters Association for the improvements undertaken at the skate park and was asked if phase 2 of the 5-year plan presented to the Committee in 2009 could be taken forward.

It was **AGREED** that the Skaters Association would come up with proposals and loose costings to be considered at the next meeting on October 3rd, but that once a firm scheme is in place, part funding would have to be sought from other sources.

Herne Road Cemetery

To consider request for the chapel to be open during the day

The Chairman requested that this agenda item be brought forward to allow a member of the public to address the Committee.

The Committee was asked to reopen St. Thomas' Chapel to the public in accordance with the opening hours displayed at the Cemetery, which are 10am-3pm, Monday to Friday. The chapel is currently open by appointment only.

The Operations Manager advised that the chapel had been locked due to problems with vandalism in the cemetery.

- 6228** **RESOLVED** that St. Thomas' Chapel be reopened to the public from 10am-3pm, Monday to Friday.

UPDATE ON MATTERS OUTSTANDING

Progress on vandalism and litter issues at Goldsmiths

The Police 'Operation Blitz' has visited Goldsmiths and attended to anti-social behaviour issues. Problems with litter have improved due to the use of additional manpower by the Council. Local by-laws are due to be reviewed and displayed, although enforcing them is difficult.

It was **AGREED** to explore the possibility of litter clearance at Goldsmiths being undertaken by people serving community service orders, for discussion at the next meeting.

It was **AGREED** that the issue of litter dropping be raised in negotiations with the Skaters Association, as one of the worst affected areas is the skate park.

Toilet block at Wolfe Recreation Ground

The outstanding balance has now been settled in full for the Liquidators of Watts Contractors (Sussex) Limited.

NOTED

Summersales

The first report has been received following the analysis of borehole samples, which lists the levels of all substances detected.

NOTED

Lease for Jarvis Brook Recreation Ground (6170 & 6171)

The new lease is being progressed. Letters have been sent to Charles Hendry MP and District Cllrs to highlight the rent increase.

No reply has been received from Mr Hendry or from District Councillors. With regard to whether similarly large increases in rent have been imposed on other town and parish councils, Cllr Neil Waller (also a District Councillor) explained that rent increases were being imposed on the advice of the district valuer; to ignore his advice would result in an increasingly large disparity between rents actually charged and those that should be charged based on up-to-date valuations. *[Post meeting – it has been confirmed that replies have been received from Mr Hendry and District Councillors, although no change to the rental increase has been possible].*

Wolfe Cottage – lease (6174)

Revised lease accepted. Tenants have now given notice to leave.

The agent has advised that a new tenant has been found. NOTED

Rayners Lane path (6177)

Registration of the path is complete. NOTED

This item will be discussed under Land Matters.

OTHER AREAS

Goldsmiths

Sign at entrance to promote recreation ground/refreshments

A draft design for a sign, incorporating icons to indicate available facilities, was reviewed.

It was **AGREED** that the draft design looked too cluttered and that the number of icons needed to be reduced and the size of each increased; a revised draft will be submitted at the next meeting.

Jarvis Brook Recreation Ground

Play Project – update on project and authorisation of financial arrangements

Jarvis Brook Residents Association has achieved £50,000 grant from The Lottery. The result of the application to Veolia is expected by the end of the month.

6229 **RESOLVED** To spend an additional £30,000 + VAT on the Jarvis Brook Play Project to bring the total expenditure for the first phase of the project to £105,000 + VAT. Funding for the first phase is £50,000 from The Lottery with the balance from the earmarked funds of £45,000 from Crowborough Town Council and £30,000 from Wealden District Council. To use Eibe as the contractor selected by the Jarvis Brook Residents Association following public consultation. Spending permitted under Section 19 of Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976.

6230 **RESOLVED** to approve closure of Jarvis Brook Recreation Ground for 3 weeks during the autumn whilst work is in progress.

Wolfe Recreation Ground

To consider resurfacing work and storage bays at Wolfe

The Operations Manager explained that, following the removal of the cricket nets from the Council compound, the yard now needs resurfacing and, ideally, two storage units constructed. The cost of resurfacing (removal of topsoil and laying of terram topped with crushed concrete) will be in the region of £7,000; some funding will be required from earmarked reserves.

It was **AGREED** the Operations Manager would prepare detailed plans and drawings of the proposed improvements to the Wolfe compound for consideration at the next meeting.

OWLSBURY ALLOTMENTS

Report on Owlsbury allotments

OATS has requested a half-size container in which to store their lawnmower and rotoator. The request will be considered once the car park extension is resolved; planning permission may not be required for a mobile structure.

Car park extension

9pm – Cllr Neil Waller left the meeting.

East Sussex County Council has recommended refusal on the grounds of highway safety. Concerns have been raised regarding the existing access arrangements and a site visit is to be arranged. The application has been withdrawn pending resolution of the issues.

ESCC did not raise any objections when the site was first opened but now claims that the entrance is dangerous. The site meeting on Thursday will attempt to resolve what alterations need to be made to the site entrance to comply with highway safety requirements.

9.07pm – Cllr Neil Waller returned.

To consider engaging a highway consultant for advice

It was **AGREED** to wait until the outcome of the site meeting before considering this issue.

PILMER ALLOTMENTS

To consider installation of rabbit fencing

The cost of installing rabbit fencing at both areas will be approximately £500 and the ideal time for undertaking the work, October or November.

It was **AGREED** to consider this item at the next meeting.

To approve action required for an unused allotment plot

Discussion deferred to the end of the meeting.

AUDIT ON THE CONDITION OF TREES ON CROWBOROUGH TOWN COUNCIL LAND

An initial audit has been undertaken on land owned/managed by the Council and the results recorded. Specialist advice is required for some trees and it is expected that some urgent tree work will be required. Other work has been prioritised and will be undertaken in-house – the work will need to be supervised by the Ranger.

It was **AGREED** to consider work required on trees on SRC land once the Ranger's report has been received and circulated to Councillors prior to the next meeting.

UNCONFIRMED UNTIL NEXT MEETING

CHAPEL GREEN

Seating on Chapel Green

A round seat on Chapel Green is beyond repair and the concrete base is broken. The seat needs to be removed for health & safety reasons. The cost of a replacement round seat is £1990 + VAT. There are 7 benches and a metal round seat on the green.

- 6231** **RESOLVED** to demolish the existing seat and concrete base as soon as possible and to consider designs for a replacement seat at the next meeting.

Tree planting

A suggestion has been received from the Communications & Events Committee to plant a tree to commemorate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee event.

- 6232** **RESOLVED** to agree in principle to plant a tree to commemorate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee but to consider its location at a later date.

FINANCE

Management Reports to 31st May 2011 (sent to all Councillors 8th June).

Management Reports to 30th June 2011 (sent to all Councillors 11th July).

- 6233** **RESOLVED** to adopt the Management Reports to 31st May 2011 and to 30th June 2011.

TO CONSIDER A 4 YEAR PROGRAMME FOR SPORT, DEVELOPMENT AND CEMETERY

Councillors were asked to visit sites against which potential work or projects had been listed, with a view to having a more informed discussion at the next meeting.

Councillors were keen to submit schemes that might qualify for Section 106 monies, and, in particular, to have plans ready in order to apply for money with only short term availability.

- 6234** **RESOLVED** that the Town Clerk and Operations Manager should apply for funds from the Bethany development for one of the following projects in order of preference: the Jarvis Brook Recreation Ground development, the purchase of land in Palesgate Lane to replace the loss of a football pitch, a BMX cycle track, sport/play equipment at Silver Jubilee.

- 6235** **RESOLVED** that the Town Clerk explains to the Committee the new rules concerning the acquisition of S.106 monies or arranges for a suitable person to address the Committee on this subject.

It was **AGREED** that, at the next meeting, the Operations Manager should present a list of which potential works / projects already outlined to take place

over the next four years might qualify for S.106 monies that are already available to the Town Council.

LAND MATTERS

- 6236** **RESOLVED** to exclude the Press and Public from the meeting during consideration of the following items pursuant to Section 1 (2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, on the grounds that publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest by reasons of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted and the likely disclosure of exempt information.

To consider setting up a working party to review possible sites and use of Section 106 funds for recreation

- 6237** **RESOLVED** to set up a working party to review possible sites and use of Section 106 funds for recreation, to include Cllrs Quentin Burch, Michael Cooke, Peter Cowie, Beverley Johnstone and Sandra Timms.

To review a proposed youth/adult recreation scheme at Silver Jubilee in connection with the collection of a developer contribution

This item was considered under the 4 year programme.

To consider sale of path at Rayners Lane

- 6238** **RESOLVED** to follow Hedley's advice and write to the owners of properties adjoining the lower section of the path to assess if they are interested in acquiring the land.

To approve action required for an unused allotment plot

- 6239** **RESOLVED** that if the tenant has not complied by 8th August with the conditions of the letter sent to him on 4th July, that the Town Council terminates his tenancy.

URGENT MATTERS AT THE DISCRETION OF THE CHAIRMAN FOR NOTING AND/OR INCLUSION ON A FUTURE AGENDA

The potential involvement of local sports clubs in celebrating the Olympics next year will be discussed at the next meeting.

The meeting closed at 10.20pm.