

Minutes of a meeting of the **SPORTS AND RECREATION** Committee held at the Council Offices, Pine Grove, Crowborough on Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> November 2023 at 7.30pm

Present	Councillors	Jane Clark	
		Martyn Everitt	Vice Chairperson
		Martyn Garrett	
		Richard Jury	
		Kay Moss	Chairperson
		Beverly Pashley	
		Matthew Street*	
		Natalie Whittle	
Also present		Caroline Miles	Town Clerk
		Karen Whiley	Responsible Finance Officer
		Peter Cunnington	Operations Manager
		Tracie White	Minute Taking Administrator

Four members of public in the council chamber

\*Denotes non attendance

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## **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

A member of public spoke to request that a litter bin be re-installed on Pilmer Road at the footpath exit from Goldsmiths Recreation Ground. He stated that people have started leaving rubbish on his drive semi-regularly which he has been having to clear himself. He believes that if a new bin were to be sited in the area it would alleviate the issue.

A member of public left the council chamber at 19:34hrs.

A member of public spoke in support of Item 8: The request for additional facilities at the pump track. He stated that the bike track has been a resounding success and read an appreciative letter from a regular user of Goldsmiths Recreation Ground acknowledging the positive impact of the bike pump track.

The chairperson moved to hear Item 6, 8 and 7 first due to members of public present with an interest in the items.

## **APOLOGIES**

CLlr Matthew Street

## **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

CLlr Kay Moss declared a personal interest in Item 8 as a neighbour of Goldsmiths Recreation Ground.

Cllr Beverly Pashley declared a personal interest in Item 10 as a neighbour of Jarvis Brook Recreation Ground

### **REQUEST FOR A LITTER BIN**

#### To note the request and agree any action

The officer's report was noted. Members discussed whether it would be possible to move one of the existing bins to the Pilmer Road location but identified that the ones currently in place are well space out and utilised.

The Operations Manager advised members that there is stock of the old-style single bin at Wolfe Yard as they have been swapped out as part of the rolling dual-bin replacement programme. It was recommended that a trial take place to see whether a single bin by the Pilmer Road allotments pedestrian location would be utilised well. The council will monitor usage and if it is regularly filled will add the location to the rolling programme of installations for dual bins.

- 10315 RESOLVED** to install a single rubbish bin, taken from existing stock, at the Pilmer Road allotments pedestrian exit for a trial period.

### **GOLDSMITHS**

#### To note the request and agree any action

The report was noted. Members discussed the possibility of providing picnic benches to the area. There is currently no budget available to fund this. In addition, members raised concerns about previous anti-social behaviour at Goldsmiths Recreation Ground which led to the removal of benches from selected areas with the grounds.

It was noted that benches have recently been removed from the Pocket Park for a trial period of six months due to anti-social behaviour. It was recommended that the Full Council be addressed with a view to requesting the loan of said benches for a trial period for use around the pump track. Should this prove to be successful, the request can be revisited for consideration of a more permanent solution.

- 10316 RESOLVED** to request the loan of benches from the Pocket Park for a trial period of six months to allow the council to monitor levels of anti-social behaviour in the area prior to making a longstanding decision.

Members discussed the substantial cost of installing a water fountain in the location of the bike pump track and confirmed that there is currently no budget available for this facility.

*Standing Orders Suspended at 19:53hrs.*

The member of public was asked whether Brew Box could be approached to provide water refills. The member of public confirmed that this had been the case over the summer months but that there are a substantial number of users requesting this which is why a solution is being sought.

*Standing Orders Reinstated at 19:56hrs.*

It was agreed that the Operations Manager investigate whether it is feasible to have a tap installed on the external wall of the refreshment and toilet block and the costs involved, as this may be a more cost-effective solution. Findings will be reported back at a future meeting.

Members discussed the request for a bike repair station alongside the pump track. Concerns were raised about the robustness of the equipment available, particularly considering the anti-social behaviour being experienced around the town. It was agreed that the request be revisited in six-months after the trial of benches in the area.

The committee discussed the possibility of planting trees around the bike pump track. A member requested that trees be reviewed as part of the whole play area as there is little shade provided in summer months. It was agreed that Cllrs Jane Clark and Natalie Whittle investigate a possible plan for the area and report back at a future meeting.

A member of public left the Chamber at 20:04hrs.

### **CAFC REQUEST**

To note the request and agree any action

It was confirmed that in the town council had purchased goals previously.

- 10317 RESOLVED** to purchase a junior 11x11 goal set for installation at Wolfe Recreation Ground at a cost of £1200 from account code 301/4038.

Members also agreed that CAFC could install a storage facility at their own cost on the provision that the Club apply for planning permission to do so. If granted, the council agree to issue a licence to the Club for this facility.

- 10318 RESOLVED** to allow Crowborough Athletic Football Club to install a storage facility adjacent to the existing pen at Wolfe Recreation Ground on the basis that the Club apply for planning permission. Should permission be granted, a licence would be issued on the provision that CAFC bear the associated costs.

A member of public left the chamber at 20:11hrs.

### **MINUTES**

Minutes of the Sports and Recreation Committee meetings held on the 30<sup>th</sup> October 2023

- 10319 RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Sports and Recreation Committee meetings held on 30<sup>th</sup> October 2023 as confirmed be ratified by the Chairperson.

### **FINANCIAL MATTERS**

To note the Finance report and agree any action.

The income and expenditure report was noted.

The earmarked reserves were noted.

The chairperson moved Items 10 and part of 12 forward as there were implications for the budget Report.

### **JARVIS BROOK RECREATION GROUND**

#### To note the report and agree any action

The report was noted. Members agreed that the play area within Jarvis Brook Recreation Ground is in poor condition and should be upgraded as soon as possible. It was recommended Full Council be approached for CiL funds to enable to project to commence more swiftly. This will reduce the Sports and recreation budget by £2,000.00 which brings the percentage increase down to 5.1%.

**10320 RESOLVED** to request Full Council for £100,000.00 plus VAT from CiL funds to replace the Jarvis Brook play equipment with new metal hardwearing equipment and new wet pour rubber surfacing.

**10321 RESOLVED** to pre-approve the tender pack to enable the tender process to start immediately should the monies be approved.

### **PROJECT PROPOSALS**

#### To note the report and agree any action

Members discussed the recent decision made by the Wolfe Working Group to refurbish the existing Wolfe Pavilion as the spiralling costs of building a new one have become unsustainable. An amount of £20,000.00 had been included within the budget report for 2024/25 for the new pavilion to assist with planning costs This could come from CiL funds and a recommendation could go to Full Council for this amount to help keep the precept requirement down.

Cllr Richard Jury asked members to note that whilst he will continue to sit on the Wolfe Pavilion Working Group he would be standing down as Chairperson.

Members agreed to request £20,000.00 from CiL funds which would enable the S&R budget for 2024/25 to be reduced. This would result in a decrease of 4.3% in this committee's budget

**10322 RESOLVED** to request Full Council for £20,000.00 from CiL funds for the pavilion project.

#### To note the Budget Report for 2024/25 and agree further action

**10323 RESOLVED** to recommend the 2024/25 budget to the Finance and General Purposes Committee with the proviso that the CiL Funds requested of Full Council are approved.

## **POLICY REVIEW**

To note the policy and agree any action

The policy was noted.

**10324 RESOLVED** to accept Hire Policy with the amendments shown.

## **WOLFE RECREATION GROUND**

To note the report on the van purchase

The report was noted.

To note the report on funding and agree any action

The report was noted. Members acknowledged that a regular schedule of works is required to ensure the standard of football pitches is maintained and were pleased to note that funding is offered by the Football Foundation to assist with this.

**10325 RESOLVED** to accept the Football Foundation Grant to allow a programme of pitch maintenance to be rolled out at Wolfe Recreation Ground with the Town Council committing to fulfil their obligation in the Funding agreement by including the required expenditure in future budgets.

## **PROJECT PROPOSALS**

To note the report and agree any action

The proposal to have Adventure Golf installed at Goldsmiths was discounted as it was not believed to be commercially viable.

The Committee considered the proposal for a Splash Park and Café Kiosk at Wolfe Recreation Ground and were generally supportive of the proposals but concluded that it is not feasible at the present time. It was agreed the idea be revisited once more is known about the costs of the Pavilion project.

## **ROSPA REPORT UPDATE**

To note the ROSPA Report Update

The report was noted.

It was acknowledged that the Skate Parks will always show as a 'Red/High risk' area due to the nature of the sport undertaken.

A member advised that the repair work on the skate park at Jarvis Brook was starting to Crumble.

The operations Manager advised that there will always be ongoing works required to the surface due to issues faced with laying new concrete on top of old, and due to the damage that skateboard wheels do the surface.

Cllr Pashley asked members to note that work was in progress to obtain planning permission for the extension of the skate park and that specialists involved with that project could advise the council. The Operations Manager advised that the specialist advisor would need to contact him directly regarding the matter and that the Council could not go through a third party.

Cllr Beverly Pashley declared a pecuniary interest in the Jarvis Brook Skatepark as the director of Artytime, the CIC applying to extend the skate park.

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

*Standing Orders were suspended at 20:57hrs.*

Cllr David Hedges raised concerns in his capacity as a member of the public, about the state of Jarvis Brook Recreation Ground and what he feels is a disproportionate amount of money being spent at Goldsmiths Recreation Ground.

A committee member addressed the concern by advising him that £100,000.00 had just been recommended to refurbish the play park, and that no further funds have been allocated to Goldsmiths. He also advised that spending is based on the size and use of the recreation ground. As Goldsmiths is by far the larger and busier of the recreation grounds, houses the Leisure Centre, and is used by members of public from all over the town, it naturally receives a larger proportion of available budgets.

Additionally, members must also consider the levels of vandalism that currently exist, and unfortunately, Jarvis Brook experiences a higher proportion. There is a finite amount of money to replace damaged items.

*Standing Orders were reinstated at 20:57hrs.*

The meeting closed at 21:02 hrs.