

Minutes of a meeting of the **SPORTS AND RECREATION** Committee held at the Council Offices,  
Pine Grove, Crowborough on Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2024 at 7.30pm

Present	Councillors	Jane Clark	
		Martyn Everitt	Vice Chairperson
		Martyn Garrett	
		Paul Goddard	
		Richard Jury	
		Kay Moss	Chairperson
		Beverly Pashley	
		Matthew Street*	
		Natalie Whittle	
Also present		Caroline Miles	Town Clerk

Seven members of the public in the council chamber

\*Denotes non attendance

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## **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 Paul Goddard declared a personal interest in Item 5 as a neighbour of Wolfe Recreation Ground

## **MINUTES**

Minutes of the Sports and Recreation Committee meetings held on the 14<sup>th</sup> November 2023

**10397 RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Sports and Recreation Committee meetings held on 14<sup>th</sup> November 2023 as confirmed be ratified by the Chairperson.

## **JARVIS BROOK RECREATION GROUND**

The chairperson moved to hear Item 6.1 first due to members of public present with an interest in the item.

To review the playground tenders and agree any action

Standing orders were suspended at 7.35pm to allow Councillors to view the proposed designs for Jarvis Brook Playpark.

Standing orders were re-instated at 7.45pm.

Councillors thanked representatives of the companies who had submitted designs and for attending the meeting.

It was noted that the proposals were all excellent and that a good balance had been obtained in providing play equipment for both younger children and older children. There was also an element of risk for the more adventurous children whilst catering for those who may not be quite so confident. Members were also pleased to see the accessibility features in the designs.

After considering all tenders presented, it was agreed that KOMPAN, as well as coming out top in the evaluation scoring, provided the most interesting and diverse range of play equipment. Furthermore, it was noted that the council had worked with KOMPAN on a number of occasions and found them to be reliable, and their aftercare service excellent.

Members considered whether there should be a consultation in Jarvis Brook so that residents could decide on the best design for the playpark. It was noted, however, that councillors were elected by residents to make decisions and that this course of action would delay the installation of the playpark. Members agreed that the playpark must be in place for the summer months. Furthermore, an evaluation score had been completed by officers and all companies tendering had bid using these criteria. The evaluation scoring is completed to assist councillors in decision making and should not be ignored.

It was agreed that moving forward the committee would like to consider how best to engage the public when replacing playparks in the town.

**10398 RESOLVED** to accept the tender from KOMPAN to upgrade the Jarvis Brook playpark at a cost of £99,779.09 to be taken from CiL funds.

**FINANCIAL MATTERS**

To note the Finance report and agree any action.

The income and expenditure report was noted.

A concern was raised with regard to the overspends. It was noted that the budget was set before the unexpected rise in inflation and the significant price rises. In addition there are unexpected costs throughout the year that the committee cannot budget for such as vandalism. In some cases earmarked reserves had been utilised which resulted in a budget being highlighted as an overspend when it was not.

The earmarked reserves were noted.

Members noted the report.

- 10399 RESOLVED** to create separate budget codes for cleaning and utility costs for Goldsmiths changing rooms and Goldsmiths Kiosk and to vire the funds from 4323 and 4326 from the start of the financial year.

### **WOLFE RECREATION GROUND**

#### To note the officer's report on Wolfe Pavilion and agree any action

The report was noted.

The waste licence numbers were not apparent on all of the quotes and the committee will not approve a company that does not have a waste licence number.

Members also wanted further information on whether scaffolding was required for the work to be carried out as some had quoted for scaffolding and some had not.

It was agreed to defer the decision until like for like quotes could be presented to members as without this a qualified decision could not be made.

#### To note the officer's report on Wolfe Tractor shed

Members were in agreement that the staff were the council's biggest asset and that it was important that the working environment had been greatly updated for them.

Members thanked the Operations Manager and the Facilities Officer for their hard work in bringing the project through to completion.

### **ASHDOWN RADIO**

#### To note the officer's report and agree any action

It was agreed that Cllr Kay Moss would take part in the interview with Ashdown Radio on Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> February.

### **GOLDSMITHS**

#### To note the request to plant additional trees on Goldsmiths and agree further action

It was agreed that an officer should provide a report showing suitable areas tree planting areas for dappled shade together with a suggestion of the species of tree suitable. Particular attention should be paid to the picnic and seating areas near the playpark. It was noted that the view from the play park and the top field should not be obstructed by tree planting.

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

It was noted that the branches of burnt-out tree are overhanging a path on Jarvis Brook Recreation Ground.

It was noted that DIY ramps and cycle tracks have appeared on Goldsmiths Recreation Ground.

The Clerk will be looking into the above.

It was noted that the Bowls Club is due a rent review and this should be on the next agenda.

An update was requested regarding the planning permission for the container requested by CAFC.

The meeting closed at 20:40 hrs.