

Minutes of a meeting of the **SPORTS AND RECREATION** Committee held at the Council Offices, Pine Grove, Crowborough on Tuesday 19th March 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
		Peter Cunnington	Operations Manager (on-line)
		Tracie White	Minute Taking Administrator

5 members of public in the council chamber

3 members of public online

*Denotes non attendance

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

A Wealden District Councillor (WDC) spoke in support of the Jarvis Brook skate park extension proposal. He stated that there has been lots of consultation with residents of Jarvis Brook, that a variety of young people have engaged with the process and that an experienced skate park designer has been employed to work on plans collaboratively with stakeholders. He believes the extension will have a positive impact on the area.

A member of public spoke in support of the skate park extension. He believes the extension will be beneficial for the youth of Crowborough and expressed an interest in helping fundraise for the project.

A second member of public spoke in support of the skate park extension, having skated there since he was a child. He also expressed interest in helping fundraise for the project.

A member of public spoke regarding the bike pump track at Goldsmiths Recreation ground. He stated that the pump track is remarkably successful with riders from a variety of ages and abilities utilising the track. He believes that having the track open to all age groups increases the capability of younger riders as they look to their older counterparts to learn from. He stated that adding a fence may cause a health and safety risk for younger riders and the use of directional arrows would interrupt the flow for riders and may not be adhered to. He also spoke in support of the extension of the skate park at Jarvis Brook.

A councillor enquired whether riders regulated use of the track themselves. The member of public confirmed that the vast majority of riders appreciate that the track is for all and are courteous to others.

APOLOGIES

Paul Goddard

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Beverly Pashley declared a prejudicial interest in Item 5 Jarvis Brook skate park as the director of the CIC applying for planning permission.

Cllr Kay Moss declared an interest in Item 7 as a neighbour of Goldsmiths Recreation Ground.

MINUTES

Minutes of the Sports and Recreation Committee meetings held on the 20th February 2024

10460 RESOLVED that the minutes of the Sports and Recreation Committee meetings held on 20th February 2024 as confirmed be ratified by the Chairperson.

The chairperson agreed to move Items 5 and 7.4 to the start of the meeting due to members of public present with an interest in these items.

JARVIS BROOK

To note the report and agree any action

Cllr Beverly Pashley left the meeting at 19:46hrs.

Members noted that the consultation carried out by Artytime had highlighted the enthusiasm for the extension of the skate park in Jarvis Brook. Concerns were raised about the impact on drainage that concreting over the area would have and the possible increased car parking but noted that these were issues that would be considered by WDC Planning department when appraising the application.

Members noted the request from WDC. It was agreed that that the council would, if planning permission for the extension of the skate park is granted, take responsibility for the ongoing maintenance of the skate park one installed.

10461 RESOLVED to approve that the plans showing the extension to the skate park at Jarvis Brook may be submitted to WDC Planning Department. If planning permission is granted Crowborough Town Council will accept responsibility for the ongoing maintenance of the skate park facility.

Cllr Beverly Pashley returned to the meeting at 20:03hrs.

GOLDSMITHS

To note the report on the pump track and agree any action

The report was noted. It was agreed that the pump track was self-policing and therefore none of the recommendations were accepted. Members requested that the officer investigate the use of reinforced mesh to protect the grassed area providing a report at a future meeting.

Members were pleased to note that the trial in respect of the installation of benches on Goldsmiths has been successful. It was agreed that an agenda item be added to the next Environment meeting to request that the benches currently on loan from the Committee reside permanently at the pump track.

Two members of public left the chamber at 20:10hrs.

FINANCIAL MATTERS

To note the Finance report and agree any action

The Income & Expenditure report was noted.

The Earmarked Reserves were noted.

It was agreed that the underspends from 2023/24 as noted in the finance report should be earmarked towards future costs.

10462 RESOLVED to earmark any underspends for 2023/24 from account codes 301/4260, 301/4270, 301/4308, 310/4250, 311/4041, 311/4308, 312/4308 and 401/4308 towards future costs.

Two members of public left the chamber at 20:13hrs.

BUSINESS PLAN

To note the draft business plan and agree further action

The report was noted. Future projects were reviewed, and it was agreed that the refurbishment of Wolfe Pavilion, standalone kiosk at Wolfe Recreation Ground, recreational use of land at Palesgate Lane, and planned upgrade for all playparks remain in the plan. It was noted that the playpark on Adams Field would be the next play park to be upgraded. It was agreed that the splash park on Wolfe Recreation Ground be removed from the plan due to the exponential costs involved.

Members agreed to add the creation of another pump track as a long-term project item. It was suggested that Wolfe Recreation Ground or Walshes Park could be possible locations for this project.

The clerk advised members that Walshes Park was not owned by Crowborough Town Council but by WDC.

Members discussed whether there was a possibility of WDC working in tandem with the town council on this project.

GOLDSMITHS

To note the report on tree planting on Goldsmiths and agree further action.

The report was noted. Members discussed alternative spaces for trees to be planted. It was recommended that five trees be planted within the play park area to provide shade to children playing.

Standing orders were suspended at 20:37hrs

A member of public raised concerns about the proposed site for trees around the pump track due to safety concerns about wet leaves on the track.

Standing orders were reinstated at 20:20hrs

It was recommended that five trees are planted near the pump track to create a glade of shade. It was noted that this area is the boggiest in the plot so this would also help deter riders from churning the grass in this area.

- 10463 RESOLVED** to plant five trees near the play park and five trees near the pump track to provide shade for users with delegated authority given to the Operations Manager to determine the exact location of the trees. Alder trees are to be purchased as they are native to the region. Funds to be used from the tree works budget code 301 /4270.

A member of public left the chamber at 20:46hrs.

To note the report on emergency lighting at the changing rooms and agree further action

The report was noted.

- 10464 RESOLVED** to appoint Greentec as the contractor to install an emergency lighting system at Goldsmiths changing rooms at a cost of £4,800 with funds being used from EMR's 9052/902/315 (£2,533.00), 9064/902/315 (£2,138.00) remaining to come from 6068/902/315 (£1382.00)

A member of public joined the meeting online at 20:50hrs.

To note the report on the boating lake and agree any action

The report was noted. It was agreed that the officer investigate a way of securing the electrics to the pump to prevent future acts of vandalism.

To note the report on the running track and agree any action

The report was noted.

- 10465 RESOLVED** to appoint ETC Sport Surfaces as the contractor to clean, treat and repaint the lines on the running track surface at a cost of £4,150 funds to be taken from 4308/301

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

None

- 10466 RESOLVED** that 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 staffing nature of the business to be transacted

Three members of public online left the meeting at 21:05hrs.

WOLFE

To note the confidential report on Wolfe Yard and agree any action

The report was noted. It was agreed that the officer manager would investigate the use of Airtags.

The meeting closed at 21:08 pm