

HORLEY TOWN COUNCIL
Leisure & Amenities Committee

Minutes of a meeting of the above-named Committee held at the Albert Rooms, Albert Road, Horley on Tuesday 29 May 2012 at 7.30 pm.

Present Councillors J Chapman (Chairman)
 R Bethell
 M George
 M Goldsmith
 Samantha Marshall
 Simon Marshall
 Valerie Marshall
 R Olliver
 M Robinson
 R Sherwin
 J Spratt
 F Stimpson

In Attendance A Jones (Town Clerk)
 C Fenton (Deputy Town Clerk)
 10 Horley residents & 1 Crawley resident

L 2931 Election of Committee Chairman (Cllr R Olliver in the Chair)

Cllr Mo Goldsmith proposed and Cllr Michael Robinson seconded that Cllr Jack Chapman be nominated as Committee Chairman. There were no further nominations for the post.

RESOLVED: that Cllr Jack Chapman be elected Chairman of the Leisure & Amenities Committee for the Municipal Year 2012/2013.

Cllr J Chapman in the Chair

L 2932 Apologies and Reasons for Absence

RESOLVED: that the apologies of Cllrs J Baird and D Powell be accepted (for reasons as specified in the Attendance Register).

L 2933 Declarations of Interest

There were no Declarations of Interest, specific to the meeting.

RESOLVED: noted.

L 2934 Election of Committee Vice-Chairman

Cllr Michael Robinson proposed and Cllr Simon Marshall seconded that Cllr Fiona Stimpson be nominated as Committee Vice-Chairman. There were no further nominations for the post.

RESOLVED: that Cllr Fiona Stimpson be elected Vice-Chairman of the Leisure & Amenities Committee for the Municipal Year 2012/2013.

Public Forum

- L 2935** Several members of the public expressed their views on the glazing surrounding the swimming pool at the new Horley Leisure Centre. A local resident from Crawley stated that he felt that the transparent windows threatened the safety and welfare of children in the pool. He added that he planned to present a petition to Reigate & Banstead Borough Council, demanding that the pool be better screened. Other Horley residents, both pool users and those living nearby, had no wish to see any change. It was noted that laurel bushes had been planted along the front of the site and CCTV cameras were present on the outside of the building. Cllr George added that staff were trained to call the Police if necessary and added that the Police had no record of any abnormal behaviour. Cllr Olliver stated that the glass formed part of the eco system of the building. He added that the newly planted laurel bushes would soon screen the building from the road. All pool users present, both local residents and Town Councillors, agreed that they had no wish to see the glass modified.

RESOLVED: noted.

- L 2936** Another local resident updated members on plans to start the Horley Evening WI on 13 June. She added that the organisation was seeking a grant towards hall rental costs. The Clerk explained that the Town Council Grant Scheme was not operating this year and agreed to make details of the Community Foundation for Surrey (Horley Edmonds Community Fund) available to the resident.

RESOLVED: noted.

- L 2937** **Approval of Minutes
Leisure and Amenities Committee, 17 April 2012**

The minutes of the above meeting of the Leisure and Amenities Committee were presented for confirmation by Committee members and signature by the Committee Chairman.

RESOLVED: that the minutes of the above meeting of the Leisure & Amenities Committee, including all confidential items, be approved.

- L 2638** **Appointments to Sub-Committees and Outside Bodies Reporting to the Leisure & Amenities Committee**

RESOLVED: that the appointments be approved (Details are appended to the minutes of the Annual Meeting held on 15 May 2012.)

Churchyards Committee

- L 2939** Members were very concerned that there had been no meetings, either of the Churchyards Committee or with representatives of the Parish Office. The Clerk was requested to write to the Parish Office Manager and Curates, expressing this Council's concern at the lack of meetings and stressing that this situation could jeopardise future grant payments.

RESOLVED: that the matter be re-considered at a future meeting.

L 2940 ***RESOLVED: that a members' tour of the Churchyards be arranged at the earliest opportunity.***

L 2941 **Grounds Maintenance Report**

It was noted that the recent weather had encouraged rapid grass growing. The Clerk added that a Litter Enforcement Officer had recently been employed by Reigate & Banstead Borough Council.

RESOLVED: noted.

L 2942 **Himalayan Balsam**

The Deputy Clerk told members that, following a suggestion from a representative of the Gatwick Greenspace Partnership, she had looked into the possibility of having the areas of Himalayan Balsam sprayed with pesticides. She added that she had subsequently discovered that it would be too late to put the necessary permissions in place this year. In addition, she said that she had learned that there may be some new more effective treatments available next year. The Deputy Clerk also said that volunteer groups around the country were currently pulling up the small plants.

Members expressed their concern at the possible harm that might be caused by the use of pesticides. After further discussion it was agreed to set up volunteer groups to work on specific areas, in the first instance Church Meadows, and to arrange some Sundays when this work could be done.

RESOLVED:

- i) that the Clerk contact the Environment Agency regarding any permissions that might be required.***
- ii) that suitable dates be arranged and members informed.***

Playgrounds

L 2943 ***RESOLVED: that receipt be noted of the Contractor's detailed weekly and daily visual playground inspection reports.***

L 2944 Members were updated on recent repairs. It was noted that the metal bench next to the multi-purpose court had been completely destroyed by vandals and had been removed from the park. There had been further damage to one of the items of fitness equipment (the air skier) and two sections of the hedge surrounding the Ornamental Gardens had been burnt and required removal.

RESOLVED: noted.

L 2945 **Dogs in Playgrounds**

Cllr George raised the issue of residents bringing dogs into playgrounds, despite signs forbidding this. He said that he had challenged residents on a number of occasions. Cllr Simon Marshall agreed to raise the matter at the next Police Liaison meeting. The Clerk suggested that the Dog Warden be asked to pay particular attention to the playgrounds. It was noted that the

- L 2945)** Borough Council's Dog Control Orders, once in place, would add to the enforcement.

RESOLVED: *noted.*

L 2946 Youth Matters

The Clerk reported that he had attended a School Council meeting at Oakwood School to discuss the skate park project. Cllr George remarked that all schools now had school councils and it was agreed that attendance at some of the meetings might be a way to discuss a variety of projects with local children and youths.

RESOLVED: *noted.*

L 2947 Plaque at Horley Recreation Ground

The Deputy Clerk reported that she had been in contact with a local resident who wished to place a plaque on the inside of one of the pillars at the entrance to the park. Members raised no objections, subject to viewing the inscription prior to installation and making the resident aware that the plaque would be installed at her own risk.

RESOLVED: *that the Deputy Clerk contact the resident concerned.*

L 2948 Tree Works at Horley Recreation Ground

The Clerk told members that the Borough Council's Tree and Woodlands Officer had reported that a number of the Horse Chestnut trees in the park required crown lifting. Further details would be provided in due course.

RESOLVED: *noted.*

L 2949 Ice Cream Vehicles at Horley Recreation Ground

Members agreed that any Ice Cream vehicle trading in the park's car park should apply formally to the Town Council for permission and agree to any terms and conditions which might be put in place, including the payment of any agreed fee.

RESOLVED: *that terms and conditions be drawn up for consideration at a future meeting.*

L 2950 Horley Bowling Club – Request for Additional Parking

RESOLVED: *that the Club be permitted to park cars beyond the barrier on the dates specified, subject to the Town Council's usual terms and conditions.*

L 2951 Horley Recreation Ground – Improvements to Footpath at Vicarage Lane End of Park

It was noted that A Bennett & Sons had suggested the installation of a soakaway as a possible solution to the flooding issues. Members were not of the opinion that this would necessarily be the best option and the Clerk

- L 2951) agreed to meet a representative of Maltaward to discuss other possible interim solutions until the footpath was fully refurbished.

RESOLVED: noted.

- L 2952 **Tree Works at Court Lodge Fields**

RESOLVED: that payment of £725.90 plus VAT to Broadleaf Tree Services, for the felling of a burnt oak tree, be approved.

Horley Open Spaces Advisory Committee (HOSAC)

- L 2953 Cllr Stimpson expressed concern at the siting of one of the new benches at Riverside Garden Park, as it was becoming surrounded by brambles and nettles. It was noted that the bench had been installed as a Gatwick Greenspace Partnership (GGP) volunteer task.

RESOLVED: that the matter be considered at a future HOSAC meeting.

- L 2954 **RESOLVED: that receipt be noted of minutes of the HOSAC meeting held on 15 May 2012. (A copy is appended to these minutes.)**

- L 2955 It was noted that the next HOSAC meeting was to be held on 17 July when the main emphasis would be on the Riverside Garden Park Management Plan, produced by GGP.

RESOLVED: noted.

- L2956 **Horley in Bloom (HIB)**

It was noted that the competition had been launched for 2012 and a few entries received so far.

RESOLVED: noted.

- L 2957 **South & South East in Bloom**

It was noted that the judging date was 10 July.

RESOLVED: noted.

- L 2958 **Hanging Baskets and Planters**

The Deputy Clerk advised members that Amethyst Horticulture was due to deliver the hanging baskets and planters the following day.

RESOLVED: noted.

- L 2959 **Horley Saturday Market**

The Clerk reported that he was meeting with a market operator regarding the running of the Horley Market. Cllr Stimpson added that the Horley Association of Traders (HATS) may also be interested in the market.

RESOLVED: noted.

L 2960 North East Sector Allotments

The Clerk reported that the official handover of the allotments was due to take place this summer. He added that it would be the Town Council's responsibility to prepare the plots for use, using part of the Borough Council's commuted sum. It was likely that the large plots (twice the size of those at Church Road Allotments) would be divided lengthwise into three smaller plots.

RESOLVED: that charges for the plots be considered at the next meeting of this Committee

L 2961 Horley Jubilee Fun Day, 4 June 2012 ("A Right Royal Knees Up!")

It was noted that the stage for the event would be erected the day before and that overnight security would be provided. Competitions would be held for the best float and best bunting entry.

RESOLVED: that receipt be noted of notes of recent meetings

L 2962 Gatwick Airport Community Trust (GACT) – Grant Applications

RESOLVED: that receipt be noted of £500 towards the cost of a concrete chess table for Horley Recreation Ground

L 2963 Gatwick Greenspace Partnership – Partnership Contribution

RESOLVED: that payment of £1900 be approved.

L 2964 Volunteer Works

The Clerk reported that volunteers from Scotia Gas Networks would be painting the remainder of the Welcome to Horley signs in June.

RESOLVED: noted.

L 2965 Letters

RESOLVED: that receipt be noted of the Surrey County Paying Fields Association newsletter.

L 2966 Diary Dates

RESOLVED: that forthcoming events be noted, in particular the Jubilee Fun Day on 4 June and GGP tour on 9 July.

L 2967 Urgent Business for Inclusion on Future Agenda

RESOLVED: that the following be included on future agenda:

- i) Replacement of trees in open spaces (the Borough Council's Tree and Woodlands Officer to be invited to give a presentation.)***
- ii) Horley Association of Traders (HATS) – the Town Council's possible working relationship.***

L 2968 Confidential Business

RESOLVED: that, "in view of the special or confidential nature of the business about to be transacted, it is advisable in the public interest that the press and public be excluded and that they be instructed to withdraw."

L 2969 Security in Recreation Grounds CONFIDENTIAL

Members were updated on recent incidents

L 2970 Memorial Gardens – Improvements to Paved Footpath CONFIDENTIAL

Members considered quotations received and approved the appointment of the Contractor Asbit to carry out the work.

Standing Order No 4 was suspended at 9.30 pm and the meeting continued until 9.35 pm.

Date of next meeting: Tuesday 10 July 2012