

HORLEY TOWN COUNCIL
Leisure & Amenities Committee

Minutes of a meeting of the above-named Committee held at the Council Offices, Albert Road, Horley on Tuesday 6 September 2005 at 7.30 pm.

Present: Councillor S Marshall – Chairman
Councillors E Andrews, Ms D Ashley-Smith, Mrs S Branwhite,
J Chapman, M George, J Kendall, G Larcombe,
J Meech and M Miller.

In Attendance: A Jones – Town Clerk
Mrs C Fenton - Deputy Town Clerk
Cllr Mrs D Brooke-Harte

L 1321 Apologies and Reasons for Absence

RESOLVED: that the apology of Cllr Ms Goldsmith be accepted (for reasons as specified in the Attendance Register.)

L 1322 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest, specific to the meeting.

RESOLVED: noted.

L 1323 Public Forum

There were no questions or comments from members of the public.

RESOLVED: noted.

L 1324 Outside Bodies

Cllr Chapman reported that he had recently been present at the judging of the allotments section of the Horley in Bloom competition. He added that the standard had been very high.

RESOLVED: noted.

L 1325 Churchyards Committee

Cllr Miller expressed concern at the lack of any Committee meetings. Cllr Branwhite, one of the Churchyards representatives, agreed to investigate and to seek an update on the operation of the maintenance contract.

RESOLVED: noted.

L 1326 Churchyards Maintenance Grant

RECOMMEND: that payment of any further instalment of the Churchyards Maintenance Grant be deferred until the next meeting of this Committee.

Youth Matters

- L 1327** Cllr Ms Ashley-Smith updated members on recent events. She explained that the planned recruitment day for Youth Council members had been cancelled and that the last Youth Council meeting had been poorly attended. The next meeting of the Youth Council was due to take place in the Town Council Offices in September and it was hoped that seven new members would be attending. Members agreed that it was vital to keep up interest in the Youth Council, particularly as the Borough Wide Youth Forum appeared not to be meeting any more.

RESOLVED: noted.

- L 1328** Members were told that £500.00 was still awaited from the UK Youth Parliament and a further £250.00 was due from the High Sheriff of Surrey's Youth Awards.

RESOLVED: noted.

- L 1329** Cllr Ms Ashley-Smith told members that the Borough Council's Pilot Project, in conjunction with the Youth Council, planned to hold an under 16s Night Club event on 27 October at the Skylane Hotel. The event would be known as HYPE (Horley Young Persons Event) and tickets would be on sale at Oakwood School.

RESOLVED: noted.

L 1330 Clerk's Grounds Maintenance Report

The Clerk told members that a six month review of the Grounds Maintenance Contract had recently taken place with the Borough Council Officers responsible for the contract. Further work was still required on the ditches and the Bowling Club hedge. Football pitch renovations had been carried out and the standard of litter collection and dog bin emptying was very high. The Committee Chairman and staff continued to meet with the Borough Council officers responsible for the contract on a monthly basis.

RESOLVED: noted.

- L 1331** Cllr Miller asked why there were no magnetic boards on the grounds maintenance vans advertising the fact that the Borough Council was working for Horley Town Council. The Clerk agreed to pursue the matter.

RESOLVED: noted.

Playground Inspections

- L 1332** **RESOLVED: that receipt of the Contractors' playground inspection reports be noted.**

- L 1333** The Clerk told members that a copy of the Wicksteed Leisure Inspection Report had been forwarded to the Borough Council, who had in turn forwarded a copy to Bennetts Playcare, the company responsible for playground inspections on the Borough's behalf. Bennetts had been asked to provide quotations for the repairs highlighted in the Wicksteed report.

L 1333) *RESOLVED: noted.*

L 1334 The Clerk suggested that it was probably no longer necessary to employ the Contractor ASBIT to carry out monthly playground inspection reports, particularly as he was not RoSPA trained. Members agreed with the proposal.

RESOLVED: that the Contractor ASBIT be informed accordingly.

Playground Repairs

L 1335 ***RECOMMEND: that payment of £85.00 plus VAT to Bennetts Playcare Ltd, for gate repairs at the Court Lodge Playground, be referred to the Finance & General Purposes Committee for approval.***

L 1336 ***RECOMMEND: that payment of £1860.00 plus VAT to Bennetts Playcare Ltd, for the supply and installation of bark at the Michael Crescent Playground, be referred to the Finance & General Purposes Committee for approval.***

L 1337 Use of Metal Detector at the A23 Recreation Ground

The Clerk confirmed that he had written formally to the resident concerned, explaining the terms and conditions, under which he would be allowed to metal detect in the A23 Recreation Ground for the trial three month period. He had also requested that the resident abide by the Code of Conduct as set out by the National Council for Metal Detecting. He added that, to date, there had been no response.

RESOLVED: noted.

L 1338 Removal of Fencing at A23 Playground

The Clerk told members that the Contractor ASBIT had removed the bases of some old fencing at the playground after a resident noticed that they had become exposed due to soil erosion.

RESOLVED: noted.

L 1339 Fencing at Michael Crescent Centenary Park

The Clerk confirmed that the goal posts had been moved further away from residents' gardens. He said that he had met with several contractors on site to consider various options for the fence at the rear of gardens of residents from Delta Bungalows and planned to have a further meeting with the residents concerned before a final decision was taken.

RESOLVED: noted.

L 1340 Emlyn Meadows – Nature Trail

Members were told that a meeting of the advisory committee was due to take place soon. The Clerk added that an additional dog bin had been installed near the river and had been much appreciated.

L 1340) *RESOLVED: noted.*

Tree Works – Court Lodge Fields

L 1341 Members were reminded that a large limb had recently fallen from a tree near the Horley Anderson car park, damaging a parked car. The trees had not been included in the Tree Audit carried out by the Borough Council on behalf of the Town Council last autumn, however they did form part of a tree audit which had been carried out for the Borough Council's Leisure Services department. The Town Council's solicitor had nevertheless confirmed that the tree was the responsibility of the Town Council and the Town Council's insurers had been informed accordingly.

RESOLVED: noted.

L 1342 *RECOMMEND: that payment of £196.00 plus VAT to Advanced Tree Services for emergency work carried out be referred to the Finance & General Purposes Committee for approval.*

L 1343 Tree Audit

RESOLVED: that the Borough Council be requested to carry out a further audit of Town Council owned trees.

L 1344 Horley in Bloom

The Clerk confirmed that the Awards Evening was due to be held at the Renaissance Hotel Gatwick on 27 October and that it would follow the same format as last year's event.

RESOLVED: noted.

Hanging Baskets and Floral Displays

L 1345 The Clerk told members that £2205.00 had been received from local businesses for hanging basket sponsorship. A thank you lunch and photoshoot had recently been held for the sponsors.

RESOLVED: noted.

L 1346 Members noted that, after a very slow start, many of the baskets supplied by the Contractor ASBIT were now flourishing.

RESOLVED: that a letter of appreciation be sent to ASBIT for his work over previous years.

L 1347 Members were reminded that the Contractor ASBIT had withdrawn from the three

year agreement for the supply of hanging baskets. The Deputy Clerk said that she planned to meet with prospective suppliers to obtain quotations for next year's displays.

RESOLVED: noted.

L 1348 Football Foundation – Grant Application

Members were reminded that the Town Council's grant application had been refused. Cllr Branwhite had responded to points made in the letter from the Football Foundation. She suggested that it would be prudent to arrange a meeting with the Foundation's local representative.

RESOLVED:

- i) that a Football Pitches Sub-Committee be formed, membership to comprise Cllrs Branwhite, Chapman and Marshall and the Assistant Clerk.**
- ii) that the sub-committee meet with the local representative of the Football Foundation.**
- iii) that the matter be re-considered at a future meeting.**

L 1349 Town Centre Christmas Lights

Members were told that the Borough Council would be meeting later this week to agree this year's funding for the Borough's four Town Centre Management Groups. It was likely that a grant of approximately £5,000 would be made this year, but there was no guarantee about any future funding. The Clerk said that he planned to meet with the Christmas lights suppliers to ascertain what new lights might be purchased and which old lights could be re-used and that the matter would be discussed fully at the TCMG meeting on 19 September.

Members were adamant that, longer term, the town's Christmas lights should mainly stay the responsibility of the Town Centre Management Group.

RESOLVED: noted.

L 1350 Letter of Condolence

Members were told that, following the death of former Town Councillor, Paul Samson, a letter of condolence had been sent to his wife.

RESOLVED: noted.

L 1351 Incident at Court Lodge Fields

Members were told that, last weekend, a car had been driven onto Court Lodge Fields and had been set on fire on one of the football pitches, leaving the grass burnt and the goal posts damaged. It was believed that the car had entered the area via the broken chain link fencing in front of the houses. The fence was the responsibility of RB Housing Trust and members were very concerned to learn that the Trust was considering the complete removal of the fence.

RESOLVED: that the Clerk write to the Chief Executive of RB Housing Trust,

expressing this Council's concern at the proposed removal of the fencing and urging some form of reinstatement.

**L 1352 A23 Recreation Ground –
Resurfacing of Car Park, Extension and White Lining**

The Clerk confirmed that Maltaward Ltd had carried out the work last month.

RESOLVED: *noted.*

L 1353 Cleaning of War Memorial

RESOLVED: *that the Clerk request that the War Memorial be cleaned by the Borough Council next spring.*

L 1354 Urgent Business for Inclusion on Future Agenda

RESOLVED: *that the following item be placed on the agenda of the next meeting of this Committee:*

Proposals for the future of the Keys Youth Centre and the Adult Education Centre.

L 1355 Press Release

RESOLVED: *that a press release be issued, given details of the prize winners in the allotments section of the Horley in Bloom competition and giving details of the Awards Evening at the Renaissance Gatwick Hotel on 27 October 2005.*

L 1356 RESOLVED: *that in view of the confidential nature of the business about to be transacted, the public and press be excluded from the remainder of the meeting under the provisions of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960.*

L 1357 Improvements to Security in Recreation Grounds CONFIDENTIAL

L 1358

Members received an update from the Clerk and agreed the way forward

L 1359 A23 Recreation Ground – Purchase of New Equipment CONFIDENTIAL

Members received an update from the Clerk and agreed the way forward.

The meeting closed at 9.25 pm.

Date of Next Meeting: 25 October 2005