

HORLEY TOWN COUNCIL
Leisure & Amenities Committee

Minutes of a meeting of the above-named Committee held at the Old Council Offices, Albert Road, Horley on Tuesday 31 July 2007 at 7.30 pm.

Present: Councillor J Chapman – Chairman
Councillors P Chapman, M George, Ms M Goldsmith,
S Marshall, Mrs V Marshall, Miss F Stimpson,
and S Thomas

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

L 1762 Apologies and Reasons for Absence

RESOLVED: that the apologies of Cllrs R Bethell, Ms J Gall, Ms S Odds, D Powell and Miss S Rogers be accepted (for reasons as specified in the Attendance Register).

L 1763 Declarations of Interest

Cllr S Thomas declared a personal interest in the Bonfire and Fireworks Display and Prom in the Park items, in view of his membership of the Horley & District Round Table.

RESOLVED: noted.

L 1764 Public Forum

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

RESOLVED: noted.

**L 1765 Approval of Minutes
Leisure and Amenities Committee 12 June 2007**

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 be approved

L 1766 Free Tennis Coaching, A23 Recreation Ground

The Clerk told members that he had met with the retired tennis professional, who was keen to provide free tennis coaching and had been assured that his Criminal Records Bureau check was regularly updated. It was noted that he was keen to start the coaching this autumn.

RESOLVED: noted.

L 1767 Bonfire & Fireworks Display, 3 November 2007

Standing Orders were suspended to allow Mr Gordon Massey, Chairman of the Horley & District Round, to address the Committee regarding the Round Table's request to hold their annual firework display in the A23 Recreation Ground on 3 November 2007. He added that contact had been made with the local emergency services and a meeting was planned with the local police.

Standing Orders were resumed and members considered the request. After discussion the following was resolved:

RESOLVED:

- i) that the request be approved.**
- ii) that the Clerk write to the Fundraiser of the Horley & District Round Table, detailing the Town Council's standard terms and conditions.**

Churchyards Committee

L 1768 Cllr George told members that the spoil heap had been landscaped and that it was hoped to secure funding to place a seat there. He added that it was planned to plant hedging along the boundary by the school playing fields. He said that it was hoped that the funding from the Gatwick Airport Community Trust could be utilised for an alternative project, possibly the seeding of the spoil heap. He told members that an area was to be cleared in the Churchyard to show how graves should be presented in future, according to the Diocesan Regulations. He reminded members that a tour of the Churchyards was planned for the evening of 12 September.

RESOLVED: noted.

L 1769 **RESOLVED: that payment of £2,000, being the second instalment of the Churchyards Maintenance Grant, be approved.**

L 1770 Youth Matters

It was noted that Jason Walters, the current Youth Council Chairman, would be standing down from the post in September, as he would be starting university at this time.

RESOLVED: noted.

L 1771 Clerk's Grounds Maintenance Report

The Clerk reported that monthly meetings were continuing with the Area Grounds Maintenance Manager. He added that there had been no problems with the collection of litter and emptying of dog bins, however the grass had generally not been cut as regularly as it should be, particularly prior to the Prom in the Park at the A23 Recreation Ground.

RESOLVED: noted.

Playground Inspections

- L 1738** The Clerk reported that there were continuing concerns about the accuracy and regularity of the reports from the Borough Council's contractor. A particular problem had recently been highlighted when the Parks Improvements Officer had been on holiday and the inspection reports had been unavailable during this time.

RESOLVED: *that the situation be monitored and the matter be re-considered at the next meeting of this Committee.*

- L 1739** **RESOLVED:** *that receipt be noted of the Contractor's playground inspection reports.*

- L 1740** **RESOLVED:** *that payment of £298 plus VAT to A Bennett & Sons for repairs carried out at the Court Lodge Playground be approved.*

- L 1741** **Purchase of Additional Litter Bins**

RESOLVED: *that three litter bins be purchased from Earth Anchors Ltd, for the total sum of £651 plus VAT (include. Carriage), one to be placed on the far side of Court Lodge Fields, one to be placed near the Skate Park (A23 Rec) and one near the Multi Purpose Court (A23 Rec).*

- L 1742** **Proposals for New Leisure Facilities in Horley**

It was noted that several organisations were keen to keep the Keys Youth and Community Centre operational.

RESOLVED: *that this be a standing item on the agenda of this Committee.*

- L 1743** **Refurbishment of Footpaths – A23 Recreation Ground**

The Clerk told members that a further quotation was expected shortly.

RESOLVED: *that the matter be re-considered at the next meeting of this Committee.*

- L 1744** **“Prom in the Park”, A23 Recreation Ground, 21 July 2007**

The Clerk said that everything appeared to be in hand. Several letters had been received from local residents, expressing their concern that the fireworks element would upset local pets and wildlife. The Clerk added that he had raised these points with the organiser and had been reassured that the fireworks would only last a few minutes. He had subsequently written to the residents in question to explain this.

RESOLVED: *noted.*

Improvements to the Ornamental Gardens

- L 1745** **RESOLVED:** *that an Advisory Committee be formed, members to be Cllrs R Bethell, J Chapman, M George, Ms M Goldsmith and Miss F Stimpson.*

L 1746 ***RESOLVED: that the Advisory Committee meet at the earliest opportunity and the matter be re-considered at the next meeting of this Committee.***

L 1747 **Memorial Gardens – New Five Bar Gate**

Members were informed that Reigate & Banstead Borough Council had supplied and installed a new five bar gate to the rear of the Memorial Gardens for the total sum of £103.68 plus VAT.

RESOLVED: noted.

L 1749 **Improved Lighting A23 Recreation Ground**

The Clerk told members that Balfour Beatty had replaced all the lanterns and had installed the additional columns. Members were reminded that the cost of the work had been funded by a grant from the Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership.

RESOLVED: that payment of £5285.05 plus VAT to Balfour Beatty Infrastructure Services Ltd be approved.

L 1751 **Cricket Square at Court Lodge Fields**

RESOLVED: that the Clerk contact the Sports (Social) Club regarding any proposed usage of the cricket square.

L 1752 **Michael Crescent Scout Hut**

The Clerk told members that he had contacted the Assistant District Commissioner regarding the condition of the Scout Hut and surrounding grass.

RESOLVED: noted.

L 1753 **Emlyn Meadows**

It was reported that the Advisory Committee was to meet on 19 June. Wild flower seeds had been planted in certain areas of the meadow. A local resident had expressed concern about the trees which had been planted near the bund. The Gatwick Greenspace Manager had explained that these would be pruned and coppiced and kept to a height of 2 – 3 metres.

RESOLVED: noted.

L 1754 **Emergency Tree Works to the Rear of Churchview Close**

The Clerk reported that the Town Council's Solicitor had written to the resident concerned, confirming that the tree, which had blown down, was definitely on land within the resident's title. A response from the resident was awaited.

RESOLVED: noted.

L 1755 Horley in Bloom (HIB) / South & South East in Bloom 2007

The Clerk told members that the judging for the South & South East in Bloom's Town/City Centre Awards was due to take place on 3 July and the Horley in Bloom judging had been arranged for 19 July.

RESOLVED: noted.

L 1756 Summer Planting

The Deputy Clerk told members that fifty two baskets in total had been hung around the town. The Memorial Gardens had also been planted with summer flowers. She added that the Borough Council had paid for twelve of the baskets and also for the flowers in the fixed town centre planters.

RESOLVED: that payment of £2,695 plus VAT to Amethyst Horticulture Ltd be approved.

L 1757 Gatwick Airport Community Trust

The Clerk told members that the Town Council's application for funding had been unsuccessful.

RESOLVED: noted.

L 1758 Press Release

RESOLVED: that a press release be issued, giving details of the Committee Chairmanship and judging for Horley and South East in Bloom.

L 1759 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 1760 Football Matters

CONFIDENTIAL

The Committee considered quotations received and approved the appointment of an agronomist to carry out a feasibility study of Court Lodge football pitches.

L 1761 Security in Recreation Grounds

CONFIDENTIAL

Members agreed the frequency of security guard patrols.

The meeting closed at 8.58 pm.

Date of next meeting – 31 July 2007