

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 5 November 2013 at 7.30 pm.

Present Councillors J Chapman (in the Chair)
 J Baird
 R Bethell
 M George
 Samantha Marshall
 V Marshall
 R Olliver
 R Sherwin
 J Spratt
 F Stimpson

In Attendance A Jones (Town Clerk)
 C Fenton (Deputy Town Clerk)

L 3293 Apologies and Reasons for Absence

RESOLVED: *that the apologies of Cllrs M Goldsmith, Simon Marshall and D Powell be accepted, for reasons as specified in the attendance register. (Cllr Robinson was absent.)*

L 3294 Declarations of Interest & Dispensations

There were no Declarations of Interest, specific to the meeting, neither were there any requests for Dispensations for Disclosable Pecuniary Interests.

RESOLVED: *noted.*

L 3295 Public Forum

No members of the public were present.

RESOLVED: *noted.*

**L 3296 Approval of Minutes
 Leisure and Amenities Committee, 10 September 2013**

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

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

L 3297 Surrey County Council Highways Localism Initiative

The Clerk reported that he had been advised that the applications put forward could not be considered as either they fell outside the Highways Localism remit, or else they were not on Surrey County Council land.

L 3297) **RESOLVED:** *noted.*

L 3298 **Outside Bodies**

It was noted that, at the recent meeting of the Gatwick Greenspace Partnership Steering Group meeting, Cllr Powell had been elected as Chairman.

RESOLVED: *noted.*

Horley Churchyards

L 3299 It was noted that there had been no further meetings of the Churchyards Committee, with the next meeting scheduled to take place on 27 November.

RESOLVED: *noted.*

L 3300 **RESOLVED:** *that payment of £1500 be approved, being the Churchyards Maintenance Grant for October-December 2013*

L 3301 **Grounds Maintenance Report**

It was noted that the last meeting with the Grounds Maintenance Area Manager had taken place on 11 October. (Notes of the meeting are appended.)

RESOLVED: *noted.*

Playground Inspections and Repairs

L 3302 **RESOLVED:** *that receipt be noted of the Contractor's detailed weekly and daily visual playground inspection reports.*

L 3303 **RESOLVED:** *that payment of £295 plus VAT for the annual inspections of all sites by The Play Inspection Company, be approved. (Inspections took place on 1 November.)*

L 3304 **Repairs to Table Tennis Tables**

It was noted that there had been no further damage to the remaining tables. After further discussion, the following was resolved:

RESOLVED:

- i) *that the cost of transporting and installing two or three new table tennis tops be ascertained.*
- ii) *that the cost of strengthening two or three tables be ascertained.*
- iii) *that the matter be considered at a future meeting, once all costs are known.*

L 3305 **Winter Planting in Memorial Gardens**

It was noted that Countrywide Grounds Maintenance had carried out the winter planting in the Memorial Gardens for the approximate sum of £1,300

L 3305) plus VAT.

RESOLVED: that the costs be approved.

L 3306 **Planting in Ornamental Gardens**

RESOLVED: that, subject to savings being found elsewhere, the planting scheme, as proposed by Amethyst Horticulture, for the total sum of £1,000 plus VAT, be agreed.

(Afternote: it was subsequently agreed to reduce the Ornamental Gardens budget for 2014-2015 from £2,000 to £1,000.)

L 3307 **Riverside Garden Park – Introduction of Parking Restrictions**

The Clerk reported that Parking Restrictions were currently being advertised and would come into force on 1 January 2014. The Borough Council would be installing suitable signage on site and Enforcement Officers would put fliers on car windscreens to advertise the impending changes.

RESOLVED: noted.

L 3308 **Storm Damage at Riverside Garden Park**

It was noted that, following the recent storm, there had been some considerable damage to some mature trees at the Park. The Clerk confirmed that such works were the responsibility of the Borough Council, as they were outside the terms of the Agency Agreement between the Town and Borough Councils.

RESOLVED: noted.

L 3309 **Himalayan Balsam (HB) Action Plan**

Cllr Bethell updated members on plans for 2014. (A copy of the Plan is appended.) He confirmed that local farmer Simon Court would be willing to assist again next year. Volunteers would again be required and it was suggested that the matter be raised at Neighbourhood Panel meetings. Cllr Olliver also agreed to highlight this in his regular column in the RH6 magazine. It was noted that Cllr Powell would be giving a presentation at one of the River Mole Catchment Consultation Workshops, due to take place the following week.

RESOLVED: noted.

L 3310 **Tanyard Pond – Conservation Volunteer Group**

It was noted that Kevin Lerwill of the Gatwick Greenspace Partnership had arranged a meeting to take place at the Farmhouse Pub on 28 November, to invite residents to become members of a Conservation Volunteer Group to help look after the Tanyard Pond area.

RESOLVED: noted.

L 3311 Volunteer Works

The Clerk advised that he had been approached by Gatwick Airport Procurement, who were interested in local projects where volunteers could become involved. The Clerk added that he had suggested the maintenance of and improvements to the neglected tiered flower bed on Network Rail land at the junction of Russells Crescent and The Drive. Other projects might include the re-painting of the railings surrounding the Millennium Mosaic.

RESOLVED: noted.

L 3312 Horley Open Spaces Advisory Committee (HOSAC)

It was noted that the Committee was next due to meet on 19 November.

RESOLVED: noted.

L 3313 Royal British Legion (RBL) Centenary Poppy Appeal

Members discussed the RBL scheme to encourage millions of poppies to be planted across Britain. They noted that Cllr Powell was keen to see poppies planted at Church Meadows, Emlyn Meadows and any other suitable areas in the town and that he would be willing to sponsor some planting from his Borough Community Award Scheme allowance.

RESOLVED: that the matter be discussed in more detail at the next meeting of the Horley Open Spaces Committee meeting.

L 3314 Horley in Bloom (HIB) Awards Ceremony

Members agreed that the ceremony held at the end of September had been very successful. Cllr George added that there had been very positive feedback. The Clerk advised that photos of the Ceremony were available to view on the Town Council web site.

RESOLVED: noted.

L 3315 South & South East in Bloom (SSEIB)

Members were pleased to learn that the Town Council had received Silver Gilt Awards for both the Town Centre and Horley Recreation Ground, with considerably improved marks for both areas. The Deputy Clerk added that next year's judging would take place between 7th and 18th July.

RESOLVED: noted.

L 3316 Horley Saturday Market

It was noted that, for some considerable time, there had only been one or two stalls present. Some members questioned whether the market should continue, although others pointed out that there were no real costs to this Council. It was suggested that consideration be given to the Watch Repairs Stall moving to the Town Centre Precinct.

L 3316) RESOLVED: that the Clerk contact Cllr Lynch accordingly.

L 3317 Langshott Allotments

Members considered the Town Council's acceptance of the freehold ownership of the Langshott Allotment site. (Background information is appended.) The Clerk added that the Town Council would need to appoint Newmans Solicitors to act on the Town Council's behalf to carry out the land transfer from Barratt Homes to the Town Council. Several members raised issues about responsibility for fencing, in particular they believed that the contractors' access gates to the Riverside Green Chain and the adjoining fence should be the joint responsibility of the Town and Borough Councils. In response to further queries, the Clerk confirmed that the fencing behind the adjoining houses was the responsibility of the householders. Concerns were also raised about the large oak trees at the site posing the threat of possible costly tree surgery in the future. The Clerk replied that all these matters would be looked at as the legal transactions continued. After further discussion the following was agreed for recommendation to Full Council:

RECOMMEND: that acceptance of the freehold ownership of the Langshott Allotment site, subject to the resolution of any legal and other issues, be recommended for consideration by Full Council.

L 3318 Church Road Allotments

It was noted that a skip had recently been placed at Church Road Allotments for a reduced charge of £200 plus VAT. The Clerk added that the fencing repairs would commence the following week.

RESOLVED: noted.

L 3319 Surrey County Playing Fields Association – Affiliation Fee 2013 / 2014

RESOLVED: that payment of £10 be approved.

L 3320 Horley Carnival 2014

Cllr George confirmed that the Carnival would definitely be going ahead, although the date was still to be finalised. The theme for next year to be Musicals. (Notes of the last meeting are appended.)

RESOLVED: noted.

Diary Dates

L 3321 RESOLVED: that forthcoming events be noted, in particular the Remembrance events on 6, 10 & 11 November, switching on of Christmas lights on 25 November and Carol Service, Hospitality and Christmas Fayre on 14 December.

L 3322 Cllr Stimpson added that future events could be published in the diary on the Chamber of Commerce website.

RESOLVED: noted.

L 3323 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 3324 Estimates & Precept 2014 / 2015

CONFIDENTIAL

Members agreed draft estimates, for consideration by the Finance & General Purposes Committee.

Prior to the close of the meeting, Cllr Chapman wished all Committee members a Merry Christmas!

The meeting closed at 9.10 pm

Date of next meeting: 7 January 2014