

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 20 May 2014 at 7.30 pm.

Present Councillors Simon Marshall – Committee Chairman
 J Chapman
 M George
 Samantha Marshall
 V Marshall
 R Olliver
 D Powell
 R Sherwin
 J Spratt
 F Stimpson

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

L 3421 Election of Committee Chairman (Cllr R Olliver in the Chair)

Cllr Jack Chapman proposed and Cllr Jan Spratt seconded that Cllr Simon Marshall be nominated as Committee Chairman. There were no further nominations for the post.

RESOLVED: that Cllr Simon Marshall be elected Chairman of the Leisure & Amenities Committee for the Municipal Year 2014/2015.

Cllr Simon Marshall in the Chair

L 3422 Election of Committee Vice-Chairman

Cllr Simon Marshall proposed and Cllr Samantha Marshall seconded that Cllr Jack Chapman be nominated as Committee Vice-Chairman. There were no further nominations for the post.

RESOLVED: that Cllr Jack Chapman be elected Vice-Chairman of the Leisure & Amenities Committee for the Municipal Year 2014/2015.

L 3423 Apologies and Reasons for Absence

RESOLVED: that the apologies of Cllrs J Baird, R Bethell, M Goldsmith and M Robinson be accepted, for reasons as specified in the attendance register.

L 3424 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 3425 Public Forum

No members of the public were present.

RESOLVED: *noted.*

**L 3426 Approval of Minutes
Leisure and Amenities Committee, 15 April 2014**

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 3427 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 13 May 2014.)*

L 3428 Meeting of the River Mole Catchment Partnership

Members were updated on the meeting, which had been attended by Cllrs Powell, Bethell and Spratt. Discussion had taken place about improving accessibility to the Burstow Stream and the possible formation of a Friends Group.

RESOLVED: *noted.*

**L 3429 Gatwick Green Space Partnership –
Partner Contribution for 2014 – 2015 from Horley Town Council**

RESOLVED: *that payment of £1,900 be approved.*

L 3430 Horley Churchyards

The Clerk updated members on the Churchyards Committee meeting, which had been held the previous day. Cllr Powell advised that he and Simon Court had worked at the New Churchyard the previous weekend clearing the long grass from the tops of the flat graves. It had been ascertained that the new graves area was supposed to be cut every two weeks. The main grass was due to be cut mid-June and mid-August and it was hoped to get volunteers to help out in July. It was noted that, should there be any financial contribution from the other Churches in Horley, then this was likely to be a one-off payment only. The Clerk agreed to help St Bart's Church complete a grant application to the Gatwick Airport Community Trust. He added that, to date, still no grant application to the Town Council had been received from the Church. Cllr Powell added that the specifications for the maintenance of the Churchyards still required modification and stressed the need for the performance of contractors to be monitored by the Church. Thanks were recorded to Cllr Powell for his efforts.

L 3430) **RESOLVED:** *noted.*

L 3431 Grounds Maintenance Report

Members were updated on recent monthly meetings, which had been held with the Borough Council's Grounds Maintenance Operations Manager.

RESOLVED: *noted. (Notes of recent meetings are appended.)*

L 3432 Grounds Maintenance Contract

The Clerk advised members that the Grounds Maintenance Contracts with Reigate & Banstead Borough Council and Countrywide Grounds Maintenance were due to expire in December 2014. Following discussion members agreed that both contractors be contacted regarding a one year extension to the existing contracts.

RESOLVED: *noted.*

Members, Inspections of Recreation Grounds

L 3433 **RESOLVED:** *that the following members be responsible for inspections:*

Cllr Simon Marshall – Horley Recreation Ground

Cllr Mike George – Court Lodge Fields and Riverside Walk

Cllr Samantha Marshall – Church Meadows

Cllr Fiona Stimpson – Riverside Garden Park

Cllr Valerie Marshall – Emlyn Meadows and Bay Close Open Space

Cllr Jack Chapman – Yattendon Road Recreation Ground

Cllrs David Powell & Richard Bethell – Michael Crescent Centenary Park

Cllr Jan Spratt – Reserve

L 3434 The Committee Chairman stressed the need for any urgent matters to be reported to Town Council officers at the earliest opportunity.

RESOLVED: *noted.*

L 3435 Playground Inspections and Repairs

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

L 3436 Application to Surrey Legacy Fund – Toddler Climbing Equipment at Horley Recreation Ground Playground

The Deputy Clerk advised that, following site meetings with contractors, several options for climbing equipment and been put forward. The Committee Chairman had subsequently visited the park and shown illustrations of equipment to parents and carers, the majority of whom had favoured an item of equipment from HAGS-SMP Ltd. The Deputy Clerk added that the new equipment would be placed alongside the existing toddler equipment.

- L 3436) *RESOLVED: that HAGS-SMP Ltd supply and install a Uni Mini Tower Unit D at the Horley Recreation Ground playground, complete with grassmat tiles safety surfacing, for the total sum of £8,648.80 plus VAT. (Total value of grant from Surrey Legacy Fund - £8,518.00)***

L 3437 Repairs to Table Tennis Tables

The Deputy Clerk advised that the replacement table tops had arrived (delivery charge, £500 plus VAT). Peter Chapman was to fit metal supports to one table this week, which would lock together both halves of the table. She added that Bennetts had charged £230 plus VAT to remove the table at Michael Crescent.

RESOLVED: that the costs to date (£730 plus VAT) be approved.

L 3438 Re-siting of Arch at Ornamental Gardens

RESOLVED: that Bennetts be instructed to re-site the hanging basket arch for the approximate sum of £240 plus VAT.

L 3439 Horley Lions Donkey Derby, Horley Recreation Ground

It was noted that this was to be held on Sunday 14 September, permission to hold the event having been given at an earlier meeting.

RESOLVED: noted.

L 3440 Horley Recreation Ground – Final Phase of Footpath Refurbishment

RESOLVED: that quotations be sought for the final phase of the works, costs to be approved at a future meeting.

L 3441 Entrance Barrier at Horley Recreation Ground

The Deputy Clerk advised that fairground proprietor Doug Beach had agreed to have the entrance barrier widened, to allow easier access for large vehicles, at no cost to the Town Council. It had however been made clear that any modification would require the Town Council's approval.

RESOLVED: noted.

(Afternote: It subsequently proved impossible to carry out the work.)

L 3442 Tree Works, Horley Recreation Ground

The Deputy Clerk advised that Richard Townsley, the Borough Council Tree Officer, was to inspect two horse chestnut trees at Horley Recreation Ground, which may require tree surgery. Full tree surveys would also be carried out this year.

RESOLVED: noted.

Church Road and Langshott Allotments

- L 3443** The Deputy Clerk advised that, following receipt of a full copy of the Section 106 Agreement, the Town Council's Solicitor had forwarded the document to

L 3443) the Solicitor acting for Barratt Homes.

RESOLVED: noted.

L 3444 The Clerk advised that Ron Miles, former Steward at Church Road Allotments, had sadly passed away, following a long illness.

RESOLVED: noted.

L 3445 Himalayan Balsam (HB) Action Plan

Cllr Powell advised that he had visited Gatwick Airport land with their Biodiversity Officer to assess the spread of Himalayan Balsam. They had found that HB was spreading from Thames Water Authority land into ancient woodland on Gatwick land. Thames Water was to be asked to deal with their area and Gatwick Airport staff would deal with the HB on Gatwick land. Cllr Powell added that he had been in contact with DEFRA regarding the need for a national campaign to eradicate HB, however he had received a very negative response regarding anticipated costs, which he refuted. He had subsequently written to Sam Gyimah MP and to Joan Walley MP, Chairperson of the Environment Audit Committee, who had now agreed to a meeting. Cllr Powell went on to explain that he would commence spraying HB with herbicide the following week. He added that he would also be spraying Japanese Knotweed in the autumn, as the Environment Agency had no funds available for this. Volunteers would be sought to pull up any HB which remained, as well as those plants, which were growing in roadside locations. Thanks were recorded to Cllrs Powell and Bethell for their ongoing efforts.

RESOLVED: noted.

Horley Conservation Group

L 3446 Members were updated on the Group's recent task, when large amounts of litter were collected from around Tanyard Pond and vegetation cut back from the paths.

RESOLVED: noted.

L 3447 **RESOLVED: that Horley Town Council fund the cost of the Conservation Group's annual membership of Surrey Wildlife Trust (currently £85 per annum), the costs to be allocated to the Grants budget.**

L 3448 Horley Open Spaces Advisory Committee (HOSAC)

It was noted that the next meeting was due to take place on 3 June.

RESOLVED: noted

L 3449 Horley Saturday Market

The Clerk advised that there was nothing further to report.

RESOLVED: noted.

L 3450 Horley Carnival 2014

Members were updated on recent meetings. (Meeting notes are appended.)

RESOLVED: noted.

L 3451 Horley in Bloom (HIB)

It was noted that the HIB Advisory Committee was next due to meet on 10 June, when consideration would be given to judging the Church Road allotments twice in one season. The Deputy Clerk agreed to contact Barratt Homes regarding prizes for the Photographic Competition.

RESOLVED: noted.

L 3452 South & South East in Bloom

The Deputy Clerk reminded members that the judging of the Town Centre and Horley Recreation Ground had been arranged to take place on the afternoon of Thursday 10 July.

RESOLVED: noted.

Town Centre Summer Planting

L 3453 The Deputy Clerk advised that she had attended recent site meetings regarding the replacement of the lighting columns in the Pedestrian Precinct. The work was due to be completed by the end of May, following which it would be possible to put the hanging baskets in place. The Deputy Clerk added that there was to be a complete refurbishment of the Precinct in 2015.

RESOLVED: noted.

L 3454 The Deputy Clerk advised that she had been seeking sponsorship of the summer planting and added that, to date, £1,240 had been pledged.

RESOLVED: noted.

L 3455 The Deputy Clerk told members that the Borough Council's Grounds Maintenance Operations Manager had agreed to have some annuals planted in the tiered flower bed near Horley Station.

RESOLVED: noted.

Memorial Gardens

L 3456 The Deputy Clerk informed members that the local resident had decided to wait until the autumn to have a rose bush planted in the Memorial Gardens, in memory of her late husband.

RESOLVED: noted.

L 3457 The Deputy Clerk advised that the Memorial Gardens had been planted with geraniums, begonias and petunias at a cost of £1,720 plus VAT.

L 3457) *RESOLVED: that the costs be approved.*

Volunteer Works

L 3458 The Deputy Clerk advised that the work to restore the neglected tiered flower bed on Network Rail land, at the junction of Russells Crescent and The Drive had been completed by a team of volunteers from Gatwick Airport, working with GGP officer Tom Simpson.

RESOLVED: noted.

L 3459 Members were advised that volunteers from Southern Gas Networks were unable to paint the railings around the town centre mosaic, as they were committed to other projects.

RESOLVED: noted.

L 3460 **Damage at Horley Recreation Ground**

Members were updated on recent incidents, where damage had been caused by youths. Members expressed their concern that police rarely seemed to be able to prosecute offenders and suggested that the matter be raised with the Borough Commander and Police and Crime Commissioner for Surrey. The majority of members agreed that a press release would be inappropriate at the present time.

RESOLVED: noted.

L 3461 **Diary Dates**

RESOLVED: that forthcoming events be noted, in particular the Carnival on 7 June and Court Lodge Funfair from 26 – 29 June

The meeting closed at 9.25 pm

Date of next meeting: 15 July 2014