

Minutes of the meeting of the Sport & Leisure Committee held in The Sportsman Meeting Room, Birchwood Leisure Centre, Longmead, Hatfield AL10 0AN on Wednesday 23rd May 2018 at 7.30pm.

PRESENT: Councillor P. Knott – Chairman
Councillor L. Mendez
Councillor J. Nelson
Councillor G Wiltshire (substitute for Cllr Holman)

OFFICERS: C. A. Lloyd (Town Clerk)
A. Ogilvie (Grounds Manager)

1. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN & VICE CHAIRMAN

Councillor P Knott was elected unanimously Chairman and Councillor J. Fitzpatrick was elected Vice Chairman unanimously for the ensuing municipal year.

2. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor J. Fitzpatrick and Councillor F. Bowron, (ill health), Councillor L. Brandon and Councillor H. Ciarleglio (holiday) and Councillor K. Holman.

3. QUESTION TIME

There were no questions from the public.

4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

5. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 28th March 2018 were approved and signed by the Chairman.

6. REPORT OF GROUNDS MANAGER

Members received the report of Ali Ogilvie;

- (i) Charlie the grounds apprentice had started working for the Town Council, he would be studying his Level 2 NVQ at Oaklands College;
- (ii) The football season was nearly over, 20 teams had played on 9 pitches. 1 set of goals would be left up over the Summer on Pitch 2 at Birchwood for teams to book for training and friendly games but it would need renovating at some stage;
- (iii) The new mower had arrived;

- (iv) Stage 1 of the tree survey had been completed and the work recommended would be carried out, stage 2 would be carried out shortly;
- (v) Cllr Knott passed his thanks onto the grounds staff for all the compliments the Council received on social media;
- (vi) Cllr Knott passed on the thanks of the County FA for the Grounds Teams' work during the season which had been commented on so favourably;
- (vii) Cllr Wiltshire thanked the Grounds staff for all their hard work at Newgate Street for the May Fayre;
- (viii) It was noted that the 2018/19 football season would start on 18th August 2018.

(Action: Town Clerk)

7. VOLLEYBALL AT ROE HILL

Members considered an emailed request from a local resident.

Members recognised the need to provide community facilities to encourage physical activity against the cost of providing those facilities.

The current provision of a free to use net and white line painted court cost the Council little to maintain, whereas a more formal court arrangement would require more expenditure and may need re-evaluation of a hiring fee and booking system.

Councillor Nelson requested a recorded vote.

IN FAVOUR of maintaining a grass court, white lined by grounds staff with no cost to users as at present;

Councillors Knott, Mendez and Wiltshire

AGAINST – Councillor Nelson

RESOLVED that the current arrangements remain in place.

(Action: Estates Manager)

8. RUGBY FLOOD LIGHTS

Members considered the email from the Rugby Club and RESOLVED that a meeting be set up with the Rugby Club, the Leader and Deputy Leader of the Council and the Estates Manager to find out more about their ideas.

(Action: Town Clerk)

9. STAFF SUGGESTION

Members considered the suggestion by a member of staff and RESOLVED that young people be permitted to turn up and play for £1 at Birchwood

Leisure Centre on the 3G Astro or in the Sports Hall (supervised by a staff member) subject to availability of the courts and staff.

As soon as the new booking system permits a membership card be issued to these users.

(Action: Head of Operations)

10. WALKING MAPS OF HATFIELD

Members considered a request from Sarah from WHSPAA and RESOLVED that the Clerk look into producing some of these leaflets in 2018 in place of the Town Guide.

(Action: Town Clerk)

11. PLAY AREAS

Members considered the quotes by Groundwork and RESOLVED that they be accepted.

Members noted the concern that Cllr Langley had raised with the Town Clerk regarding parents at Millwards placing babies in the cradle swings when they were too young and that her solution was to look at providing a teen basket swing. In the first instance Members RESOLVED that the Clerk ascertain whether there was sufficient available room within the existing bow top fenced site for a teen swing.

(Action: Town Clerk)

12. TOWN COUNCIL SITES

Members were advised that the anticipated opening date for Roe Hill Bar was still 1st June.

13. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Noted that the next meeting would be on 4th July 2018 at 7.30pm.

Closure: 8.55pm

Chairman