



Minutes of the Extra-ordinary Town Council Meeting held on Wednesday 23rd October 2019 at 7.30pm in the Sportsman Meeting Room, Birchwood Leisure Centre, Longmead, Hatfield.

PRESENT: Councillor Eames-Petersen – Deputy Mayor

Councillor Lenny Brandon	Councillor Angus MacKay
Councillor Jackie Brennan	Councillor Lee Newman
Councillor Richard Brisbin	Councillor John Percival
Councillor Richard Griffiths	Councillor Tristan Wiltshire
Councillor Caron Juggins	Councillor Lee Newman
Councillor Hazel Laming	Councillor Bhumi Zhaveri

OFFICERS: Carrie Lloyd (Town Clerk)
Sam Frake (Deputy Town Clerk)
Ali Ogilvie (Head of Estates)

50. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Mark Bolitho (work), Councillor Rory Craig (work) and Councillor Linda Mendez (prior engagement)

51. DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS BY MEMBERS

There were none.

52. QUESTION TIME

It was questioned why Mr Brindle's presentation would be in the confidential session of the meeting.

Moved by Cllr Brandon and seconded by Councillor Eames-Petersen that the public be permitted to remain for the presentation then Members Resolve to move into the confidential part of the meeting for discussion.

Moved by Cllr MacKay that the public be permitted to remain for 10 minutes to ask questions of Mr Brindle after his presentation. Cllrs Brandon and Eames-Petersen accepted this amendment to their motion.

RESOLVED that Mr Brindle's presentation be made during the public part of the meeting with a 10 minute public question time followed by a confidential session for Members' discussion.

53. PRESENTATION BY JON BRINDLE

Members received a presentation by Mr Brindle on his suggestion for a football ground at Birchwood Leisure Centre which would not require the disposal of any Town Council asset, only utilise the £800,000 "Angerland s.106 Fund" and provide everything required for a football club required to step 6 of the league including a renovated grass pitch.

Cllr Juggins left the meeting at 8.15pm

Members of the public expressed concern that the plan failed to provide better facilities for youth football.

The use of the newly renovated grass pitch for income generating events was questioned as a potential drain on the pitch's playability, even though it could be covered for concerts, it could not be covered for charity matches and the like.

It was noted that of all the football clubs listed by Mr Brindle – London Colney, Arseley, Biggleswade, Colney Heath etc Hatfield was unique in that it would be the only site with an established Leisure Centre already on site.

Mr Brindle did not see necessary to provide to extend the stands in the future.

Members of various football clubs had their own views on who should take precedence on pitch allocation.

Members of the public were requested to email the Clerk with any concerns that they had.

Members agreed that they would consider this matter further at Sport and Leisure Committee on 20th November.

54. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Noted that the next Council meeting would be 7.30pm on 11th December 2019.

55. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

RESOLVED that the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business;

- (i) Birchwood Football Ground

56. BIRCHWOOD FOOTBALL GROUND

Members discussed the presentation by Mr Brindle. It was noted that floodlight, tree, highway and noise assessments would be needed along with scheme financial viability assessments.

RESOLVED that

- (i) The Town Clerk circulate the pre-application advice to all Councillors;
- (ii) A further informal meeting take place at 7.30pm on 12th November at Birchwood Leisure Centre;
- (iii) Sport and Leisure Committee discuss all potential options on 20th November in public forum.

Closure: 21:30

Mayor