



Minutes of the meeting of the Sport & Leisure Committee held in The Sportsman Meeting Room, Birchwood Leisure Centre, Longmead, Hatfield AL10 0AN on Wednesday 22nd January 2020 at 7.30pm.

PRESENT: Councillor T. Wiltshire – Vice Chairman in the Chair
Councillor L. Brandon
Councillor R Brisbin
Councillor M Eames-Petersen
Councillor R. Griffiths
Councillor A. MacKay

OFFICERS: C. Lloyd (Town Clerk)
A. Ogilvie (Head of Estates)
P. Medowski (Well-being & Fitness Manager)

43. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor C. Juggins (health) and Cllr Zhaveri (work)

44. QUESTION TIME

Representatives of Hatfield and Crusaders Cricket club expressed their disquiet at the manner in which the whole process of moving the wicket and hence Club to Newgate Street had been handled. They expressed concern at hidden agenda, lack of transparency on the Council's behalf in its dealings and lack of communication in the whole process.

The Chairman advised that many Members present were newly elected in May and were trying to make the process work. The key decision would be to focus cricket at Newgate Street and football and rugby at Roe Hill.

The Draft WHBC Playing Pitch Strategy and Built Facilities Strategy backed the need for cricket at Roe Hill which in the Club's opinion backed their argument that they should not move to Newgate Street.

The Chairman advised that this would be further discussed when the item was reached on the agenda.

45. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were none.

46. MINUTES

Councillor Griffiths requested that Minute 32 be actioned as soon as possible. The Clerk advised that Sam Frake was on leave and if Cllr Griffiths wanted information on amounts spent on architects fees this would need to await her return from leave. Councillor Griffiths to liaise with Sam Frake. Subject to noting this, the minutes of the meeting held on 20th November 2019 were approved and signed by the Chairman.

47. PRESENTATION BY ALI OGILVIE, HEAD OF ESTATES

Birchwood 3G Floodlights

Members noted the quoted received for upgrading the floodlighting the 3G at Birchwood Leisure Centre and despite proposals to improve facilities at the Leisure Centre is was **RESOLVED** to approve Company B's quote of £3,845 as the floodlighting was becoming a health and safety issue.

(Action: Estates Manager)

Cricket

A positive meeting had been held with representatives of the Cricket Club, Hall Management Committee, Vice Chairman of Sport and Leisure Committee who lived in Newgate Street, Town Clerk and Head of Estates.

- A partition and a power point will be fitted in the changing room to make them more suitable for the Club's use;
- all agreed hitting the ball over the far boundary will be for the cricket club to manage and suggested they speak to the landlord to see if they could have access to his land;
- the May Fair and produce show will take priority over any cricket on those days. Newgate Street Committee to advise the Council at the start of each year what dates these events take place;

It was further agreed by all parties present at that meeting that the wicket was looking good, it would take 3 years to come to maturity but the Cricket Club was satisfied with progress so far. The Head of Estates confirmed that a contractor would do a pre-roll and the Town Council would do rolling thereafter. The Cricket Club were happy with the Changing Rooms.

The Cricket Club were happy with hall hire arrangements for present (2.30 – 4.30pm at £20ph), the Hall Caretaker kindly offered to switch on the hot water boiler for the Cricket Club so it would be ready for their teas. The Cricket Club had advised that in the future they would want to revisit this with a view to their own area for teas at Newgate Street, subject to funding availability.

The Committee **RESOLVED** that in view of the hall hire fee, Hatfield and Crusaders be charged £57 per pitch hire for the next three years.

(Action: Estates Manager)

The cricket club would submit their block booking forms for 2020.

Hatfield and Crusaders had confirmed that they were more than happy for other clubs to book the wicket once they had submitted their block bookings for the Summer.

The Head of Estates had now received quotes for netting, signs and mesh panels for the hall windows. It was not anticipated that netting would be needed for the car park, just the play area, a final risk assessment would confirm this on 6th February, in the meantime Members **RESOLVED** that £11,458.72 be spent on this item.

(Action: Estates Manager)

Councillor Wiltshire declared an interest in the following item as a relative of the proposed supplier and did not take part in the debate.

The Head of Estates requested that a container be purchased for Newgate Street costing £2,200 for the same supplier as previously used for the depot containers – G Wiltshire. The Committee **RESOLVED** that G Wiltshire supply a container for the cricket mower and other materials at a cost of £2,200.

(Action: Head of Estates)

Members **RESOLVED** to have the outfield sprayed at a cost of £624.

(Action: Estates Manager)

48. PRESENTATION BY PAV MEDOWSKI, HEALTH AND WELL BEING MANAGER

Members noted the No Strings Badminton figures.

Members noted the report on Pilates and requested that further figures be brought back to the next meeting which included full on-costs.

The Health and Well Being Manager was requested to look into trade in or resale of the existing reformers.

RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL that the price of 4 Pilates reformers (£8,945.73) be taken from reserves in 2020/21.

(Action: Health and Well Being Manager)

49. 2020 EVENTS

Members considered the list of events proposed for 2020.

- Music Festival
- Hatfield Rail Crash Memorial – 17th October
- Poppy Appeal Launch – 24th October
- Fireworks Display – 7th November
- Remembrance Sunday – 8th November
- Armistice Day – 11th November
- Santa's Rounds – 1st – 17th December

Members were further advised that the Music Festival cost the Town Council £10,000 pa to stage whereas the Fireworks event (subject to weather) just about broke even.

The Deputy Leader Cllr Juggins had suggested (via the Vice Chairman) that the Music Festival be made a bi-annual event. The Leader of the Council, who acted as the music act promotor for the event at no cost to the Council, did not agree. Other members of the Committee felt that a lower key, summer event should take place. The Town Clerk advised Members that there was no Events Officer in place to organise the Music Festival and the appointment of a person to such a post would add to the cost of the event by more than £10,000 pa. thereby increasing the annual cost of the event by up to £20,000 pa.

RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL that they consider what Summer events could take place around Hatfield and specific costs for each event and the roles and responsibilities of the officers for each event historically.

(Action: Town Clerk)

50. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Noted that the next meeting would be on 25th March 2020 at 7.30pm.

Closure: 9:07pm

Chairman