

## OPEN SPACES AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

Minutes of the virtual **OPEN SPACES AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE** meeting held on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> February 2021 at 7.00 p.m.

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**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Cllrs Ms Hill (Chair), Cllr Lewis (Deputy Chair), Bullion, Elliott, Munn, and Ms Wharton.

**ALSO PRESENT:** Cllr Harris (Cllr Harris left the meeting at 8.07 p.m.)

**OFFICERS PRESENT:** Carolyn Ripley (Office Administrator) Tracy Kelly (Town Clerk)

1. **APOLOGIES AND REASON FOR ABSENCE** – Cllrs Kinghorn (Prior Meeting) and Mrs Kinghorn (Ill Health).
2. **DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY AND OTHER SIGNIFICANT INTERESTS** – Cllr Harris, though not a member of this committee with voting powers, declared an interest as Treasurer of the Southborough Allotment Holders' Association (SAHA).
3. **PUBLIC OPEN SESSION** – Four members of the public attended and spoke on items 6 and 7.
4. **MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS**

It was **NOTED** that the minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> January 2021 were approved by Full Council at its meeting on 28<sup>th</sup> January 2021.

### 5. ACCOUNTS

- a) **Financial Statements** – Members **NOTED** the income and expenditure reports from 1<sup>st</sup> December 2020 to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2020.

### 6. ALLOTMENT TERMS AND CONDITIONS

#### **Bonfires/BBQs/Wood Ovens**

Members **AGREED** to postpone a decision on this item until the next Open Spaces & Environment Committee Meeting on 9<sup>th</sup> March 2021. Members asked the Office Administrator to further investigate the item by speaking with KALC and other Councils for comparison.

#### **Water Charges**

Members **AGREED** to postpone a decision on this item until the next Open Spaces & Environment Committee Meeting on 9<sup>th</sup> March 2021. Members asked the Office Administrator to research the issue of water misuse fees by contacting other Councils for a comparison.

### 7. REQUEST FOR STREET TRADING PERMISSION ON SOUTHBOROUGH COMMON

Members **AGREED** that there would be no changes to the Common Byelaws and street trading would continue to be prohibited on Southborough Common. Therefore this street trading application was rejected. However, Members **AGREED** they would like to support local businesses as much as possible and could look into other sites in Southborough and High Brooms that may be suitable for street traders.

## **8. CAR-PARK RE-SURFACE ON SOUTHBOROUGH COMMON/SPEEDING**

Members **AGREED** to investigate resurfacing the car park on Southborough Common near Woodlands Nursery and asked the Town Clerk to obtain quotes for review at the next Open Spaces & Environment Committee Meeting on 9<sup>th</sup> February 2021. Members further **AGREED** to look at the costs of speed reduction signs to address the speeding issues in the car park and asked the Town Clerk to obtain prices.

## **9. PROPOSED FUTURE PROJECTS**

Members **AGREED** they would like to add a new play area on the Playing Fields to the proposed future projects list. Members **AGREED** that this item does not need to be on each agenda.

## **10. CONFIDENTIAL MATTERS**

**a) Charges – Possible increases for 2021/2022** – Members discussed the proposed increase in charges from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2021.

**Cemetery Charges** – Members **AGREED** to an increase of 3% to the charges made within Southborough Cemetery.

**Holden Pond** – Members **AGREED** the costs for an Annual and Day Fishing Permit will be amended to £25 and £9, respectively.

**Football Maintenance Charge** – Members **AGREED** to the following 3% increase in charges:

**An increase of 3% would increase the sums to:**

Southborough Football Club £686.72

Armada £686.72

Tunbridge Wells Youth Football Club £3210.89.

**Allotments** – Members **AGREED** to a 3% increase from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2022 that would take the cost to £6.39 per rod. Members **NOTED** that allotment rent increases have to be notified to plot holders a year in advance and thus the charges for 1<sup>st</sup> April 2021 were already agreed upon last year at £6.21 per rod.

**Common and Council Land Exercise Groups** – Members **AGREED** that the charge applied will be £29 plus VAT.

**There being no further business the Chairman thanked everyone for their attendance and closed the meeting at 8.24 p.m.**

**CHAIRMAN**