

OPEN SPACES AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

Minutes of the virtual **OPEN SPACES AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE** meeting held on Wednesday 7th April 2021 at 7.00 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Cllrs Hill (Chair), Cllr Lewis (Deputy Chair), Bullion, Elliott, Munn, Lane (joined at 7.19 p.m.) and Wharton.

OFFICERS PRESENT: Carolyn Ripley (Deputy Town Clerk) Tracy Kelly (Town Clerk)

1. **APOLOGIES AND REASON FOR ABSENCE** – Cllrs Kinghorn and Mrs Kinghorn (Family Commitment).
2. **DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY AND OTHER SIGNIFICANT INTERESTS** – None declared.
3. **PUBLIC OPEN SESSION** – No members of the public or press were present.

4. MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS

Members **NOTED** that the minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 9th March 2021 were approved by Full Council at its meeting on 25th March 2021.

5. ACCOUNTS

- a) **Financial Statements** – Members **NOTED** the income and expenditure reports from 1st February to 28th February 2021.

6. PENNINGTON RECREATION GROUND OPENING HOURS REVIEW

Members **AGREED** to extend the park closing time to 7 p.m. given the lighter evenings. It was further **AGREED** that this area be revisited should problems start to reoccur with an increase in anti-social behaviour or the changing needs of the COVID-19 regulations.

7. ELECTRIC VEHICLE CHARGING POINTS – SOUTHBOROUGH COMMON

Members **NOTED** that consenting to access over Common Land to reach an EV charging point would set a precedent and would erode the Common Byelaws. Therefore, it was **AGREED** that this individual application for permission to cross Common Land would be **REFUSED**. However, Members **AGREED** that they want to do as much as possible to support the switch to electric vehicles and to create a greener Southborough and High Brooms, and as such agreed it would be prudent to discuss this as part of a wider debate on Net Zero 2050 at a future meeting. Members **AGREED** it would be vital to work together with KCC and TWBC to investigate suitable sites throughout Southborough and High Brooms for EV charging points and how this might work in the Conservation Area that covers a large part of the town.

8. FISHING AT HOLDEN POND ISSUES

Members **AGREED** to ban fishing at Holden Pond for at least the upcoming year or until the Council has had time to de-silt the pond.

9. CONFIDENTIAL MATTERS

a) Southborough Cemetery – Memorial Issues

Members **AGREED** that only memorials made of materials approved by the Town Council would be permitted and that the Cemetery Regulations would be updated to reflect this. Members further **AGREED** that although they would not be against the use of greener materials in principle, the individual application put forward for discussion on this occasion would be **REFUSED**, as it is made of a material that is currently too unregulated. Members also **NOTED** it was out of keeping with the traditional, Victorian aesthetic of Southborough Cemetery.

b) Re-surfacing of Car Park on Southborough Common - Update

Members **NOTED** that the quote amount provided for re-surfacing the car park would require this project to go out to tender and to be included in future budgets, as there is no budget for this in the current financial year. The matter would be rediscussed at a later date. Members further **NOTED** that patching had now been carried out to the affected areas and this should have a life span of 5 to 10 years.

There being no further business the Chairman thanked everyone for their attendance and closed the meeting at 7.47 p.m.

CHAIRMAN