

OPEN SPACES AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

Minutes of the virtual **OPEN SPACES AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE** meeting held on Wednesday 5th May 2021 at 7.00 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Cllrs Hill, Lewis, Bullion, Elliott, Kinghorn, Munn, and Wharton.

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

1. **ELECTION OF CHAIR AND DEPUTY CHAIR** – Councillor Hill was re-elected to Chair and Councillor Lewis was then re-elected Deputy Chair. Councillor Ms Hill, as duly re-elected by the Committee, then proceeded to Chair the rest of the meeting.
2. **APOLOGIES AND REASONS FOR ABSENCE** – Cllr Mrs Kinghorn (Ill Health).
3. **DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY AND OTHER SIGNIFICANT INTERESTS** – None declared.
4. **PUBLIC OPEN SESSION** – One member of the public was present in reference to item 7. No members of the press were present.
5. **MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS**

Members **NOTED** that the minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 7th April 2021 were approved by Full Council at its meeting on Thursday 29th April 2021.

6. ACCOUNTS

- a) **Financial Statements** – Members **NOTED** the income and expenditure reports from 1st March to 31st March 2021.

7. TUNBRIDGE WELLS YOUTH FOOTBALL CLUB – PLAYING FIELDS MAINTENANCE

Members **AGREED** to give Town Council Permission as the landowner to the improved maintenance works on the playing fields, following the request from the Tunbridge Wells Youth Football Club who have secured grant-funding for the works.

8. DOG POO BAG DISPENSERS

Members **AGREED** to providing dog poo bag dispensers at four initial locations and to review the situation with regard to adding further locations in the future:

2 dispensers – Playing Fields Entrance Points
1 dispenser – Southborough Common/Car Park
1 dispenser – Town Square

9. TOWN SQUARE IMPROVEMENTS

a) **Tree Guards** – Members **AGREED** to purchasing Tree Guards for the centrally located trees in the new Town Square in order to prevent damage as they mature.

b) **Hanging Baskets** – Members **AGREED** to consulting a qualified surveyor/engineer to provide a report on the load-bearing capacity of the Town Council-owned street light columns in the Town Square, with a view to adding hanging baskets if possible.

10. CONFIDENTIAL MATTERS

a) Town Council Land Hire Charges Review

Members **AGREED** to keep the current monthly charge at £29 plus VAT for all Town Council Land Hirers. It was further **AGREED** that this would be reviewed again at a future meeting, once exercise and business activities were running more normally due to coronavirus restrictions easing.

There being no further business the Chair thanked everyone for their attendance and closed the meeting at 8.04 p.m.

CHAIR