

OPEN SPACES & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

Minutes of the **OPEN SPACES AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE** meeting held on **Tuesday 6th September 2022 at 7.00 p.m.** at the Southborough Civic Centre, 137 London Road Southborough, KENT TN4 0NA.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Cllrs Hill (Chair), Lewis (Deputy Chair), Elliott, Kinghorn, Prance and Wharton.

OFFICERS PRESENT: Carolyn Ripley (Deputy Town Clerk).

1. APOLOGIES AND REASONS FOR ABSENCE

Cllr Mrs O Kinghorn – ill health.
Cllr Lane – work commitment.

2. DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY AND OTHER SIGNIFICANT INTERESTS

None declared.

3. PUBLIC OPEN SESSION

Two members of the public were present in reference to items 6 and 9. Matt Glazier of the LTA was present in reference to item 12A. No members of the press were present.

4. MINUTES

Council Members **NOTED** that the minutes of the meeting held on 5th July 2022 were **APPROVED** at Full Council on 28th July 2022.

5. INCOME AND EXPENDITURE

Council Members **APPROVED** the previously supplied income and expenditure reports relating to Open Spaces for the period 1st – 30th June 1st – 31st July 2022 and 1st – 31st August 2022.

6. MAY DAY FESTIVAL 2023 - CRICKET PITCH, SOUTHBOROUGH COMMON

Council Members **APPROVED** the application from Nell Price on behalf of Southborough Street in conjunction with Southborough Cricket Club, requesting Town Council permission as landowner to have a May Day Festival on **Monday 1st May 2023 11 a.m. - 5 p.m.** on the Cricket Pitch at Southborough Common, including stalls selling food and alcohol.

7. SOUTHBOROUGH IN BLOOM

Council Members **AGREED** to re-establish the Southborough in Bloom Competition and the associated Town Council Working Group. Councillors Elliott, Hill, Kinghorn and Wharton **AGREED** to be members of the new working group.

8. PLAYING FIELDS – ADDITIONAL PATHS REQUEST

Council Members **REJECTED** the current request for more tarmac pathways on the playing fields, though further discussion could take place after the playing fields drainage issue has been addressed.

9. TUNBRIDGE WELLS OLDER PEOPLE’S FORUM – PLANTING REQUEST

Council Members **POSTPONED** any discussion of commemorative Jubilee planting on the playing fields as requested, until after the playing fields drainage issue has been addressed.

10. KENT’S PLAN BEE – NO MOW MAY 2023 CAMPAIGN

Council Members **AGREED** to formal adoption of Kent’s Plan Bee “No Mow May 2023” Campaign by the Town Council.

11. TREE SURVEY SOFTWARE

Council Members **NOTED** that the Deputy Town Clerk has overseen the installation of tree survey software via OTISS/Intrinsic in conjunction with the Town Council’s Tree Contractor. This software allows for more efficient and detailed mapping and management of the Town Council’s large expanse of land and trees. This will assist with various core responsibilities such as health and safety, environmental issues, and future tree planting. Council Members **NOTED** that large-scale tree surveys of the Town Council’s land will commence shortly.

12. CONFIDENTIAL MATTERS

It is proposed that during the consideration of the following items, the public and press shall be temporarily excluded (Standing Order 3 (c): -

“Meetings shall be open to the public unless their presence is prejudicial to the public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted, or for other special reasons. The public’s exclusion from part or all of a meeting shall be by a resolution which shall give reasons for the public’s exclusion.”

These items are considered confidential for the following reasons (s).

Information relating to the financial and personnel affairs of the Council.

a) PENNINGTON RECREATION GROUND – TENNIS COURTS

Council Members **AGREED** to formally accept the Lawn Tennis Association (LTA) criteria necessary to allow formal application by the Town Council for LTA funding to improve the tennis courts in Pennington Recreation Ground and promote park tennis at the facility. Council Members **AGREED** that they want tennis to remain free and that all operational control should remain in-house with the Town Council.

b) HOLDEN POND – LONG-TERM PLANS - UPDATE

Council Members **NOTED** the previously supplied update report from the Deputy Town Clerk, in conjunction with the previously supplied email and report from The Water Doctors, emails from KCC Kent Highways regarding Holden Road, and email comments from a member of the public, prior to further discussion at Full Council on 29th September 2022.

c) SOUTHBOROUGH COMMON – UPDATE

Council Members **NOTED** the previously supplied letter regarding Southborough Common.

There being no further business, the Chair thanked everyone for their attendance and closed the meeting at 8.15 p.m.

CHAIR



**Miss Carolyn Ripley
Deputy Town Clerk
7th September 2022**