

OPEN SPACES & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

Minutes of the **OPEN SPACES AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE** meeting held on **Tuesday 10th January 2023 at 7.00 p.m.** at the Southborough Civic Centre, 137 London Road Southborough, KENT TN4 0NA.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Cllrs Hill (Chair), Elliott, Lane & Prance

OFFICERS PRESENT: Carolyn Ripley (Deputy Town Clerk).

1. APOLOGIES AND REASONS FOR ABSENCE

Cllr Kinghorn – family commitment
Cllr Ms O Kinghorn – family commitment
Cllr Lewis - work commitment
Cllr Wharton – 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

Council Members **NOTED** that the minutes of the meeting held on 6th December 2022 were **APPROVED** at Extraordinary Full Council on 22nd December 2022.

5. INCOME AND EXPENDITURE

Council Members **NOTED** that there are no income and expenditure reports to review at the current time due to the Christmas and New Year break. Reports from 1st December 2022 onwards will be available at the next meeting.

6. PENNINGTON RECREATION GROUND – Staff Annual Leave/Access

Council Members **NOTED** that the side gate at Pennington Recreation Ground will be left open for a two-week duration period that constitutes annual leave for the staff member who resides within the park and normally manages locking gates. Council Members **FURTHER NOTED** that the Grounds Staff Team will monitor the park on weekdays and that this decision was taken because the Town Council cannot close the park to the public, yet no longer has local staff to cover this when annual leave is being taken.

7. 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 form 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 – LTA Funding Update

Council Members **AGREED** to introduce a nominal tennis court booking fee once the LTA project at Pennington is complete, in order to reduce non-cancellation no shows and add to the sustainability plan required by the LTA. Council Members **APPROVED** a charge of £1 per court per one-hour session and **NOTED** that this can be administrated through the LTA ClubSpark booking software that will be used, as this includes the Sprite payment platform.

There being no further business, the Chair thanked everyone for their attendance and closed the meeting at 7.25 p.m.

CHAIR



**Ms Carolyn Ripley
Deputy Town Clerk
11th January 2022**