

OPEN SPACES & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

Minutes of the **OPEN SPACES AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE** meeting held on **Tuesday 4th July 2023 at 7.00 p.m.** at the Southborough Civic Centre, 137 London Road Southborough, KENT TN4 0NA.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Cllrs Lewis (Chair), Kinghorn (Deputy Chair), Figgett, Elliott. Hill, Mrs Kinghorn and Stewart.

OFFICERS PRESENT: Carolyn Ripley (Deputy Town Clerk)

1. APOLOGIES AND REASONS FOR ABSENCE

Cllr Wharton – Ill Health

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 on 6th June 2023 were approved at Full Council on 29th June 2023.

5. INCOME AND EXPENDITURE

Council Members **APPROVED** the previously supplied income and expenditure reports relating to Open Spaces for the period 1st – 31st May 2023.

6. FOOTPATHS ON PLAYING FIELDS ADJACENT TO YEW TREE ROAD ALLOTMENTS

Council Members **AGREED** that the Deputy Town Clerk could move forward and obtain quotes for resurfacing of the pathway on the playing fields relating to the section that runs alongside the Yew Tree Allotments and exits onto The Ridgeway Private Road.

7. SOUTHBOROUGH COMMON BYELAWS

Council Members **APPROVED** an amendment to the Southborough Common Byelaws section **5. ERECTION OF STRUCTURES** to clarify that structures are only permitted with Town Council approval and in relation to community events with Town Council permission/checks in place, but that this would permit bouncy castles under these circumstances only. Council Members **AGREED** that the Deputy Town Clerk would seek some legal guidance on exact wording to be reported back to Council Members by email.

8. BASKETBALL COURT AREA – PENNINGTON RECREATION GROUND

Council Members **AGREED** that the current condition of the gym area and basketball courts in Pennington is below standard and that the Deputy Town Clerk should seek to obtain quotes for resurfacing and painting and report back at a future committee meeting.

9. RIDGEWAYE AND YEW TREE PLAYING FIELDS – HISTORIC LECTERNS PROPOSAL

Council Members **APPROVED** the proposal for two information/historic lecterns to be placed at the entrance of the Ridgewaye and Yew Tree Road Playing Fields, and that the Town Council would seek to fund them if a grant funding application is unsuccessful.

10. 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 TENNIS COURTS – LTA COACHING PROVIDER

Council Members **APPROVED** the previously supplied tennis coaching provider advertisement/specification drafted by the Deputy Town Clerk with assistance from the LTA, and further **APPROVED** the following as part of the coaching offer: £3 per court per hour, initially offering 15 hours of court time per week and for 40 weeks per annum.

There being no further business, the Chair thanked everyone for their attendance and closed the meeting at 7.51 p.m.

CHAIR

**Miss Carolyn Ripley
Deputy Town Clerk
5th July 2023**