

# OPEN SPACES & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

Minutes of the **OPEN SPACES AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE** meeting held on **Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> September 2023 at 7.00 p.m.** at the Southborough Civic Centre, 137 London Road Southborough, KENT TN4 0NA.

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

**ALSO PRESENT:** Cllr Bridges

**OFFICERS PRESENT:** Carolyn Ripley (Deputy Town Clerk)

## 1. APOLOGIES AND REASONS FOR ABSENCE

Cllr Mrs Kinghorn – Ill Health  
Cllr Opara – Another Commitment  
Cllr Wharton – Ill Health

## 2. DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY AND OTHER SIGNIFICANT INTERESTS

The following interests were declared in reference to item 8:

Cllr Lewis: Allotment Tenant  
Cllr Hill: Allotment Tenant  
Cllr Stewart: Allotment Tenant

## 3. PUBLIC OPEN SESSION

Three members of the public were present in reference to items 8 and 9a. No members of the press were present.

## 4. MINUTES

Council Members **NOTED** that the minutes of the meeting on 4<sup>th</sup> July 2023 were approved at Full Council on 29<sup>th</sup> July 2023.

## 5. INCOME AND EXPENDITURE

Council Members **APPROVED** the previously supplied income and expenditure reports relating to Open Spaces for the period 1<sup>st</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup> June 2023 and 1<sup>st</sup> – 31<sup>st</sup> July 2023 (Reports are always a month in arrears).

## 6. PENNINGTON RECREATION GROUND – SITE SECURITY

Council Members **AGREED** that improved security measures were needed at Pennington in light of increasing anti-social behaviour and vandalism. Council Members **AGREED** that the Deputy Town Clerk should investigate and gather quotes for increased surveillance options.

## **7. FRANK WEARE RECREATION GROUND – SECURITY/ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR**

Council Members **NOTED** the email from a resident as forwarded by Greg Clark and **AGREED** to monitor the situation at Frank Weare.

## **8. ALLOTMENT TERMS AND CONDITIONS – BONFIRES REVIEW**

Council Members **AGREED** to ban bonfires in the hotter months of June, July and August.

## **9. 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) OLD FOOTBALL PAVILION, PLAYING FIELDS – SOUTHBOROUGH F.C.**

Council Members **AGREED** that the Deputy Town Clerk should advise Southborough F.C. to apply for Section 137 Grant Funding assistance from the Town Council.

### **b) SOUTHBOROUGH CIVIC CENTRE/TOWN SQUARE – PLANTING AREAS**

Council Members **NOTED** that the Town Clerk will be arranging for returfing of a small portion of the large planting area at the edge of the playing fields entrance, which is being used as a cut-through to London Road. Council Members **AGREED** to convene a meeting of the Southborough in Bloom Working Group to put together a detailed and clear programme of proposed works, primarily for the large planting area at the edge of the playing fields in the first instance, but for wider planting areas around the Town Square, as desired. Council Members **NOTED** that the detailed programme of works must then come back to committee for agreement before a formal discussion with the contractor responsible for the Facilities Management Contract can take place.

### **c) SOUTHBOROUGH COMMON/MODEST CORNER – FOR INFORMATION**

Council Members **NOTED** the previously supplied emails from a resident at Modest Corner regarding activities on Town Council-owned land.

**There being no further business, the Chair thanked everyone for their attendance and closed the meeting at 8.25 p.m.**

**CHAIR**

**Miss Carolyn Ripley  
Deputy Town Clerk  
6<sup>th</sup> September 2023**