

OPEN SPACES & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

Minutes of the **OPEN SPACES AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE** meeting held on **Tuesday 5th September 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, Mrs O Kinghorn, Opara and Stewart.

OFFICERS PRESENT: Carolyn Ripley (Deputy Town Clerk)

1. APOLOGIES AND REASONS FOR ABSENCE

Cllr Elliott – Ill Health
Cllr Hill – Another Commitment
Cllr Wharton – Ill Health

2. DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY AND OTHER SIGNIFICANT INTERESTS

The following interests were declared in reference to item 7b:

Cllr Lewis: Allotment Tenant
Cllr Stewart: Allotment Tenant

3. PUBLIC OPEN SESSION

Two members of the public were present in reference to item 6. No members of the press were present.

4. MINUTES

Council Members **NOTED** that the minutes of the meeting on 5th September 2023 were **APPROVED** at Full Council on 28th September 2023.

5. INCOME AND EXPENDITURE

Council Members **APPROVED** the previously supplied income and expenditure reports relating to Open Spaces for the period 1st – 31st August 2023 (Reports are always a month in arrears).

6. TWYFC – CONTAINER RELOCATION REQUEST

Council Members discussed a container relocation request for the third TWYFC container, which needs to be removed from its current footprint on Southborough F.C. leased land. Council Members **AGREED** to postpone a decision and give **TWYFC** more time to propose a solution.

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) BASKETBALL COURT/OUTSIDE GYM AREA – PENNINGTON RECREATION GROUND

Council Members **AGREED** to look at including this project in next year’s budget, although it is hoped that some grant funding can be applied for.

b) ALLOTMENTS – WATER USAGE

Council Members **AGREED** that increased water usage at the allotments should be factored into a higher annual tenancy charge, which will be reviewed at the next meeting of this committee in November 2023.

c) OPEN SPACES – BUDGETARY REVIEW 2024 - 2025

Council Members **NOTED** the previously supplied report by the Finance Officer regarding Open Spaces income and expenditure for 2023 – 2024 and **AGREED** to consider future projects and associated budget amendments for Open Spaces 2024 – 2025 at a future meeting.

There being no further business, the Chair thanked everyone for their attendance and closed the meeting at 8.08 p.m.

CHAIR

**Miss Carolyn Ripley
Deputy Town Clerk
4th October 2023**