

OPEN SPACES AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

Minutes of the virtual **OPEN SPACES AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE** meeting held on Tuesday 2nd July 2024 at 7.00 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Cllrs Figgett, I Kinghorn, Stewart, Wharton (Chairing)

Other councillors present – Cllrs J Francis, D Francis

OFFICERS PRESENT: Steve Nash (Locum Clerk)

- 1. APOLOGIES AND REASONS FOR ABSENCE** – Cllrs Allen (Unknown), Lewis (Annual Leave), Opara (Work Commitments), Spickett (Family Commitments).
- 2. DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY AND OTHER SIGNIFICANT INTERESTS** – Cllr J Francis said he would leave the room when the football container is discussed.
- 3. PUBLIC OPEN SESSION** – Several members of the Southborough Allotment Association were present and raised several concerns over safety issues and discussed the idea of closer collaboration between the Town Council and SAHA. They pointed out it would be beneficial to have a list of vacant plots.
The Locum Clerk provided current vacant plots on both sites. Locum Clerk advised that he would send over a schedule of works so they could see when Ground Staff were in the area. The Locum Clerk will also provide the group with a list of grants available to support the group.

A resident also present, raised the issue of a commemorative tree being planted for the King and that a plaque should also be provided. He also suggested he would be prepared to make a substantial contribution toward the project. He was also concerned that Agendas were not being placed on notice boards and that one notice board had not been updated for two years.

Cllr Wharton advised that our staff would look into this immediately but advised that we had significant staffing issues. Cllr Spickett also advised that no agreement for a plaque on a tree had been approved by the Council.

4. MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS

Members **NOTED** that the minutes of the meeting held on 4th June 2024 were approved by Full Council at its meeting on Thursday 27th June 2024.

5. INCOME AND EXPENDITURE

Cllr Wharton asked what an Easement Payment was which was answered by Cllr J Francis as a payment for access on our land. All other payment sheet were **APPROVED**.

6. TUNBRIDGE WELLS CONTAINER

There was some discussion around the container and the need to improve its appearance and it was decided to defer this until the next meeting of the Open Spaces and Environment Committee.

7. COMMON TROUGH

It was agreed that a replacement was needed after the theft of the original and that bricks already collected should be used to create another structure. It was agreed that suggestions should be brought forward to the next meeting.

8. ALLOTMENTS

This item had been moved to Public Open Session (see above)

There being no further business the Chair thanked everyone for their attendance and closed the meeting at 8:05 p.m.

CHAIR