

ENVIRONMENT & LEISURE COMMITTEE

REPORT (Minutes) of the meeting of the Environment & Leisure Committee held at the Fleur de Lys Council Chambers, Market Square, Hailsham on Monday 15th February 2010 at 7.30 pm.

Prior to commencement of formal business, a period of not more than 15 minutes was assigned for the purpose of permitting members of the public to address the Committee or ask questions (on matters relevant to the responsibilities under direction of this committee) at the discretion of the presiding Chairman.

Mr B. Harris, Chairman of the Allotment Society, addressed the Committee in respect of the proposal for a new skateboard park. He stated he totally opposed the location of a skateboard park on land adjacent the allotments. The Committee Chairman stated that the location for a park has not yet been agreed.

E&L/09
4/237 **Present:** Councillors: J. Bentley Astor, B.F. Burchmore (Chairman), Mrs SPM Cottingham, I. Haffenden, Mrs S. Henstock, P. Holbrook, J. Puttick, G. Rowe (Vice Chairman) and Mrs M. Rowe

Officers in Attendance: Karen Moralee (Environment and Leisure Officer)

238 **Apologies for Absence:** Councillor G. Canning

239 **Declarations of Interest**

None were received.

240 **Minutes of Previous Meeting**

RESOLVED to note that the report (minutes) of the meeting of the Environment and Leisure Committee (reference: E&L/09/3/160-171) held on Monday 16th November 2009 was amended and confirmed as a correct record, and adopted at the meeting of Hailsham Town Council on Monday 14th December 2009.

Matters Arising

South Road Play Area – Vandalism

241.1 The Committee Clerk reported that a piece of play equipment at South Road Play Area, the “Whirly Bird”, had been vandalised beyond repair and a new Whirly Bird will cost in the region of £1889.00. Members were advised that a claim for vandalism will be made to the Town Council’s insurance company. Councillor I. Haffenden suggested that if the claim was unsuccessful, perhaps a cheaper piece of play equipment could be installed.

241.2 **Stroma Gardens – Fencing**

The Committee Chairman reported that the resident at Stroma Gardens who had requested the heightening of the fence at Stroma Gardens Play area had now moved away. He advised, however, that the work to the fence has been completed.

242 **Officer’s Update on the Environment and Leisure Committee’s Achievements**

A written report appended to these minutes as Appendix EL/09/4/242 was circulated with the agenda, outlining all the completed works and ongoing projects. Members noted and adopted the report.

243 **Common Pond**

The Committee noted that a memorial bench is to be placed at the Common Pond, in memory of Councillor Dudley Rose.

244 **Skateboard Park**

The Committee Chairman and Councillor J. Bentley-Astor updated members on the proposals for a Skateboard Park in Hailsham. The Chairman and other members expressed disappointment that the Environment and Leisure Committee had so far been allowed no input in discussions in the building of a Skateboard Park and considered it is important that representatives from both the Finance Policy and Resources Committee and the Environment and Leisure Committee attend meetings. Councillor Bentley-Astor advised that so far discussions had been kept within the Finance, Policy and Resources members and that at a meeting held in January 2010, it had been established that planning permission was not needed for a Skateboard Park and the recommendation was for the Youth Council to take the lead in seeking funding for the Park. Members were advised that the Safer Wealden Partnership had awarded £6,000 pump priming grant to the scheme. He stated that nothing had yet been agreed regarding the location of the Park. Councillor Haffenden reported that East Sussex County Council have suggested that they can be approached regarding revenue funding for the bid process.

Members discussed possible locations for the Park and Councillor Puttick considered that the site must be central to the Town and that policing of the site is vital. Councillor Holbrook stated that there are areas of community land within new developments that would be suitable such as an area of open ground behind Whitehouse School, and suggested a commuted sum could be agreed for a Park within the Wealden District Council's 106 agreement. He stated that discussions should take place with Wealden District Council as soon as possible.

245 **Committee Expenditure**

RESOLVED to recommend to note and adopt the summary of the Committee Income and Expenditure for the period ending 31st January 2010 as printed and circulated and appended hereto as Appendix EL/09/4/245

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 8.00 pm.