



Minutes of the meeting of the **PARKS AND OPEN SPACES COMMITTEE** held at 7.30pm on 12th September 2011, in The Radlett Centre, Radlett.

Present: Councillors C. Wilkins (Chairman), T Butwick, Mrs G Balen

Officers: P Evans (Clerk).
F Hills (Head of Grounds Maintenance)
Mrs C Fletcher (Parks and Open Spaces Officer)

34. Apologies for absence.

Apologies were received and accepted by the committee from Cllrs J Howley & D Lambert. Cllr G Walton was absent.

35. Declarations of Interest on any item on the agenda.

- a) Personal – none.
- b) Prejudicial – none.

36. To adjourn the meeting for members of the public to address the Committee (in accordance with Standing Order 1d).

No members of the public were present.

37. Chairman's Announcements

The Chairman reported that he had been approached on the subject of entering Phillimore Recreation Ground into the Green Flag Award. This subject had been discussed at a previous meeting, and the Chairman reminded members that this would involve considerable work. After a short discussion members agreed that the Council would not make an application.

The Chairman gave an update regarding the current situation with Salters Field and the recent meeting that he had attended with Tabard and Radlett Cricket Club.

Regarding the plan for The Rose Field, the Chairman asked the Clerk to contact TEC at Tabard to ask them to expedite installing the barbecues. Finally the Chairman announced that he had been approached regarding the clause in the allotment tenancy agreement requiring plot holders to keep the access gate locked at all times. The Clerk and F Hills were asked to look at ways of improving the lock.

38. Clerk's Report

This report had been previously circulated and is attached for reference purposes.

The Clerk was asked to ensure that the information on the barbecue signs planned for The Rose Field, was pared down to include only the vital health and safety information.

39. Head of Grounds Maintenance Report

F Hills updated members on the works that had been carried out by the groundstaff, and outlined the work that the groundstaff would be carrying out in the coming weeks.

F Hills reported the theft of three hanging baskets from The Radlett Centre. Members praised the ground staff on the new planters at Tykeside.

F Hills reported that he had reserved a Christmas tree which would be available before the Christmas lights switch-on at the November Full Council meeting.

40. To consider the latest financial statements.

The statements had previously been circulated and were noted.

41. To receive quotations for the placement of various signs on Parish Council land.

The Clerk circulated proofs of the amended signs. Members checked each proof and it was noted that not all the amendments had been made and therefore further corrections were required. The Clerk circulated quotations from three companies to supply and erect the signs. It was then

Resolved;

- a) That the Clerk ensures the signs are amended as requested and obtains corrected proofs for the Chairman's approval.***
- b) That the Clerk purchases the signs from SDE signs at a cost in the region of £5,000 to supply, deliver and erect the signs.***

42. To decide whether to repair or replace the swings at Letchmore Heath.

The Parks and Open Spaces Officer had previously circulated a report with several options included. These were discussed by members before it was;

Resolved that

- a) the groundstaff remove the entire swing structure as a matter of priority***
- b) the Clerk purchases a new bay of two flat seat swings from Calendonia Play at a cost of £2,195 supplied and installed with grass safety matting. It was noted that this purchase will use up the remainder of the asset purchase budget and it was resolved that the overspend should be offset by the increase in site rental income.***

43. To consider an offer from Hertsmere Borough Council to purchase land at Radlett Gardens.

The offer letter from Hertsmere Borough Council had previously been circulated. The recommendation from this committee was to reject the offer as members agreed that this would not be a good use of parish council land and the offer was minimal. Therefore it was

Resolved that the Clerk writes a letter to Hertsmere Borough Council to reject the offer.

44. To receive a report regarding football pitch use at Phillimore Recreation Ground.

A report had previously been circulated. F Hills was asked for his opinion on the quality of the pitch and its ability to sustain more than its current use. F Hills advised the committee that the pitch would deteriorate if it was used more than it is currently. Members are aware that there will be Section 106 money available in due course for improving the sports pitch. Therefore it was

Resolved;

(a) That no additional football bookings be taken on at this time.

(b) That officers talk to neighbouring parish councils to find out how often they hire out their football pitches, what level of preparation is necessary before each match and, where appropriate, ascertain what improvements we might need to carry out, and the associated costs, in order to offer the same pitch hire availability.

(c) That the Clerk responds to the applicant who wanted to hire the pitch assuring him that his application had received serious consideration and advising the reasons as to why the application had not been accepted.

(d) That the Clerk advises the committee of the content of the recent sports strategy report for Hertsmere Borough Council.

45. To review anti-social behaviour in Phillimore Recreation Ground.

An update on this subject had been previously circulated in the Clerk's report. Members were aware that as a temporary measure, to discourage anti-social behaviour, the local Police Constable and two Police Community Support Officers had been issued with keys to the car park gate on 25th August. They had been locking the car park as and when they had the opportunity in the course of their duties. The police reported that they had managed to lock the gate on nine days out of a possible seventeen days. During that time the police had received no reports of anti-social behaviour and on one occasion moved on a group from the car park thereby preventing a potential anti-social behaviour incident from developing. Members discussed the various options, and the cost implications, and



Resolved

- a) To continue with the arrangement with the police until the clocks go back.**
- b) That once the clocks go back the groundstaff should lock the gate at 5pm.**
- c) That the subject be reviewed again, and should go on the Parks and Open Spaces committee agenda before the clocks change again in the spring.**
- d) That the Clerk prepares a report with the various options and the associated costs to be presented to the next meeting.**

46. To decide whether to submit an application to include the Council allotments in the National Garden Scheme.

The Clerk had previously circulated a proposal from the Chairman of Radlett Horticultural Society (RHS). After discussion members agreed that in principle it would be a positive move to seek to include the allotments in the National Garden Scheme. Members agreed to support the RHS and to grant permission for the RHS to make the initial application. It was agreed that the RHS would need to liaise with the Clerk and the Parks and Open Spaces Officer on the finer details. Therefore it was

Resolved that the Clerk writes to the Chairman of the RHS granting him permission to make the initial application to the National Garden Scheme.

47. To decide the priorities for 2011/12

The Clerk tabled a report. Members received the report and agreed this was a useful document to have alongside financial statements and the five year plan. It was agreed that all these priorities would be considered alongside the financial statements at the November meeting.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.15pm.

Chairman

Dated

Date of next meeting 9th November 2011.