

CHEPPING WYCOMBE PARISH COUNCIL

LEISURE FACILITIES COMMITTEE

Report of the meeting held on Thursday 6 December 2012 commencing at 7.30pm
in the Council Chamber, Cock Lane, Tylers Green, High Wycombe, Bucks HP10 8DS

Present: Cllr L Willis - Chairman Cllr J Herschel
Cllr C Jordan - Vice Chairman Cllr J Bailey
Cllr S Digby
Cllr I Forbes
Cllr J Gurney

Also in attendance: Cllr D Johncock, Cllr J White, Mrs Jane Wingrove, Mrs April Summers and Mr Lawrence Dunhill

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr B Sadler, Cllr S Herron and Cllr D Onslow

2. Declarations of members' interests in Items on the agenda

Cllr J Bailey declared a personal interest in item 6.1 as he is a tenant at the Flackwell Heath Allotment site.

3. Straight Bit Recreation Ground

3.1 Removal of Skate Park

Members were asked to note that the skate park at the Straight Bit Recreation Ground will be removed early in the new year following the Council's decision made on 28 June 2012.

4. Derehams Park Recreation Ground

4.1 Track work and levelling on site

Members were asked to note that work by the grounds team will be taking place, weather permitting, to level the grassed area adjacent to the pavilion and also to address the surface and drainage issues on the track leading down to the Bowls Club.

4.2 Bowls Club

Members were asked to note that the Loudwater Bowls Club had been asked to seek quotes for the car park work as recommended by the committee and that to date no information had been received.

5. Community Orchards

Members received an update on the Community Orchard Project from Cllr White who was able to give an estimate of £5,000 as a start-up cost, this to be taken to Council on 24 January 2013 together with the approval for a consultation process regarding the location, either Lower Kingsmead or below the cemetery at Altona Road, and Cllr White was asked to liaise with the Clerk. It was hoped that this first orchard could be on the way by Autumn 2013. Any sponsorship opportunities would be followed up to assist with the cost.

A concern regarding security was mentioned, but it was felt that the site should be open as at other parish sites.

6. Allotments

6.1 Hedge Laying at Flackwell Heath

Members were asked to note that following meetings with two hedge layers it had been suggested that the hedge at the allotment site was beyond salvaging and would therefore need to be coppiced. The clerk has been in contact with Carington Estates who are happy with any hedge work as long as it complies with regulations and does not have a detrimental effect of their tenant at the farm. The hedge will look bad initially but in the long term be easier to look after.

6.2 Tylers Green Allotments

Members were asked to note that the grounds team are in the process of creating a flat, raised area near the shed for extra car parking. It was agreed that the Ashley Drive Allotment site should take priority in order to improve the facility and bring it in line with the site at Flackwell Heath.

7. Playground Consultation

7.1 Draft Questionnaire

Members considered and approved the draft questionnaire. It was suggested that the 240 metre radius from each play area would be a starting point and that residents and interested parties further afield would be included in the distribution.

7.2 Setting up Working Parties

Members were asked to consider the proposal to set up working parties for each ward with a minimum of 3 people which was agreed. The terms of reference to be set by the committee; to include an objective of consulting with the public and interested parties through delivery, collection and collation of the approved questionnaires and reporting back to the Leisure Facilities Committee. Schools in each area would be approached in order to utilise their 'email to parent' facility.

The working parties for each ward would be as follows:

Flackwell Heath: Cllr Johncock, Cllr Bailey, Cllr Herschel

Loudwater: Cllr Willis, Cllr Jordan, Cllr Gurney

Tylers Green: Cllr Sadler, Cllr Wood, Cllr Herron

8. Draft Budget 2013/14

Members considered the draft Leisure Facilities committee budget for 2013/14 and, prior to its recommendation to the next Finance and General Purposes Committee, a new line for Community Orchards needed to be inserted. All other items were approved.

9. Committee Finances

Members noted the committee finances which were running to budget.

10. Questions from council members and the public

Mrs Jane Wingrove asked the following questions to the members present;

Flackwell Heath has one small park which is not just used by the older children – younger children use the skate park and it is of great concern that it will be removed. Have the council not paid attention to the petition?

How long will it take for a replacement?

FHRA funded the original skate park – will they get their money back?

The anti-social behaviour will move to outside the shops and the car park behind Budgens – how will this benefit anyone?

What will the residents be left with?

Would the council be reusing those facilities taken out, what storage provisions have been made and how would the equipment be put back at a new site?

A written response would be sent to the above.

ClIr Johncock also added the following;

Why did the council feel the need to act quickly, could the equipment be left until a suitable site was found?

This point was noted by the chairman of the committee.

Mrs April Summers, Chairman of the Flackwell Heath Allotment Association asked the following question;

When was the hedge laying/coppicing going to start at the allotment site in Flackwell Heath? She needed to have a timescale as the association were seeking a grant to assist with fencing.

Members were also advised that the association at the Flackwell Heath site was not yet robust enough to take extra members from the Tylers Green Allotments. This point was noted.

11. Accounts for payment

The accounts for payment were approved for payment of cheque numbers 7708 to 7721 and the direct debit for E-ON. Cheque number 7711 made payable to ICCM was cancelled as the council does not subscribe to the organisation.

The chairman thanked all those present and the meeting was closed at 8.45pm

Date of the next meeting: Thursday, 28 February 2013

Signed **Dated**