

AMENITIES AND RECREATION COMMITTEE

12 January 2009

Committee Members present: Cllrs D Keeley (Chairman), L Baldock, (Vice Chairman), J Atkins, C Block, Mrs S Boakes, Mrs B Brown, Mrs B Keeley, Miss A Moloney, J Tucker, L Withey. Mrs S Hunter (Town Clerk)

Other Councillors present: Cllr B Garlick

Members of the Public present: Mr Baldwin, Mr Hann, Mr Bush, Mr Miners, Mr Rimmer Mr Hickmott

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Mrs D Crook, C Grayhurst and Ms. K Woolley.

2. Declarations of Interest

Cllr Miss A Moloney – Community Association.

Cllr L Withey – Medway Valley Fisheries

3. Matters Arising from the Minutes of the Meeting held on 10 November 2008

3.1 Item 7 – Cllr Tucker asked if the residents are happy with the new goal posts at Willowside. There have not been any further complaints, and the clerk will contact the resident to see if it has alleviated the problem.

3.2 Item 9.3 – Cllr Baldock has not been able to meet with Mr Norton yet, and will try to meet with him in the near future.

4 Questions from the Public

4.1 Mr Bush and Mr Hann would like to hold a bike event in the Brookland Lake car park on 28 June this year. Last years event was very successful, and along with other events over £6000 was raised and distributed between various charities. The Bike club aims to introduce youngsters to more positive things like safety etc, and would like to get the community involved.

Rick Payne from the Valley of Visions has contacted the bike club with a view to them managing an off road track if one can be identified that will not disturb local residents, this would take away the nuisance off roaders.

Mr Bush asked if the Brookland Café was not open in June would they still be able to hold their event. The council hope the café will be open by this time, although if not the scouts could be asked to do the catering.

The bike club has 400 members and they would like to thank the council for the support given to them, and they will be attending the Carnival meeting in February. Cllr Moloney congratulated the bike club on the work they carry out in the community. Cllr Keeley asked if the committee would agree to bring the request to hold a bike event under item 8 forward. The committee agreed to this.

ITEM 8 – Letter from Bike Club

Resolved to allow the bike club to hold their event at Brookland Car Park on 28 June 2009.

4.2 Medway Valley Fisheries representatives James Chatten and Tony Pocock introduced themselves to the councillors they had not met before.

They had previously sent information on what they do at Brookland Lake, and explained how they have progressed with the lake since taking the project on.

The lake in Nevill Park does not lend itself to fishing due to the leak in the lining. The lake is between 3 and 4 ft deep, and the reeds are growing inwards. If we have a very dry summer, it is possible the lake could dry up.

To revive the lake would be very costly and would be impractical, so the fishing for youngsters is taking place at Woodlands Lake and Capstone Park to compensate for the loss of use at Nevill Park.

Tony Pocock informed the committee that there is a rescue programme where fish go to an environment for rescued fish, and if the lake levels fall too low this option is available.

The Clerk will arrange for the fisherman's sign to be returned, and the STC sign will be turned to an angle to make it easier for visitors to read.

The fishermen have offered to keep a close eye on the Council's premises at the lake, while the café is closed and they are happy with the current arrangements and wish to continue with the Lake for many years to come.

The Council expressed their thanks to the fishermen for the assistance they give the council, and for the success they have made of the Lake.

- 4.3 Mr Miners representing the Snodland Sports Association asked several questions regarding the sports field extension at Potyns. The Committee Chairman Cllr Keeley said that the appointment of a project manager has to be agreed by TMBC, and as soon as this happens the project will move forward rapidly. When clear information is available it will be forwarded to the Sports Association.
- Concerns raised by Mr Rimmer regarding the loss of a football pitch were addressed. The positioning of the Bowling Green is not set in stone and its positioning can be varied as was always the agreement.
- It would be ideal not to use the loss of a pitch at all during the works; however Mel Rayfield at a previous meeting with the Sports Association said it would be possible for teams to share a pitch.
- STC will inform the sports association of any developments as soon as they are aware. Mr Hickmott is concerned that funds have been expended on this project. STC is unaware of any monies being spent, and any cost will come from the Section 106 agreement funds.
- 4.4 Mr Hickmott said the parking outside Holmesdale school on both sides of Malling Road during mornings and afternoons, is becoming intolerable, also the West Pavement in Malling Road, vehicles are having to mount the pavement to get through and they continue along the pavement at speed.
- STC will raise these two issues at a parking review meeting they will be attending later in the week.
5. Brookland Lake - Fishing
Dealt with at item 4.2.

6. Potyns
The extension to the building at the community centre is imminent, and now depends on the weather.

7. Cemetery – Repair to Gates
A letter from Argyll Insurance has been received confirming receipt of the claim form. W.R. Brown will begin the repair as soon as the weather is in our favour.

The Cemetery sub committee met and various ideas were discussed. The Clerk will research sources of income for the Cemetery within the past five years to gain a fuller understanding of the use of the Cemetery.

Trees along the boundary are a concern, as some of the trees are causing the rose bushes to die on the south side. A suggestion has been made to thin the trees and the clerk will arrange a site meeting to see what trees would need to be removed etc. Cllr Atkins is keen to keep the 'Victorian Cemetery' theme, where the trees would be of an evergreen type, and not necessarily of an indigenous species.

An inspection of the safety of the gravestones is due, and the clerk will contact various Bramm accredited stone masons to obtain quotes for this work.

Cllr Mrs B Keeley asked if there is anyway a sound barrier could be created between the playing fields and the Cemetery, as the use of foul language on the playing fields is often very disturbing and offensive to Visitors of the Cemetery. This issue will be taken to the Sports Association.

The War Memorial will be cleaned as soon as the weather permits, and a grant has been awarded to STC towards the cost of this by the War Memorial Trust. Cllr Mrs B Brown deserves a special thank you from the committee for bringing this trust to our attention.

7. Dates for 10k Run and 7-a-side.
Cllr Keeley has set a provisional date of 11 October 2009 and will confirm this date with Cllr Mrs D Crook, for the use of the community centre.
A date for the 7-a-side cannot be arranged until the pitch situation is confirmed.

8. Correspondence

- 8.1 A second quote for the street lighting maintenance has arrived, and this will go to the next Policy and resources committee meeting.

9. Any other items which the chairman has decided are urgent owing to special circumstances.

A visit from our twinned town in Moyuevre will take place over the weekend of the 23rd May 2009. The clerk will liaise with Mr Hickmott as to times for the visit, and will contact the Mayors Office to see if the Mayor could attend a reception to meet the guests from Moyuevre.

The Chairman moved that the press and public be excluded from the remainder of the meeting because of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.