

AMENITIES AND RECREATION COMMITTEE

12 May 2008

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

Mrs S Hunter (Town Clerk)

Members of the Public present: Mr Baldwin, Brian Porter, Kevin Bush, Thomas Seymour.

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Mrs S Boakes and C Grayhurst.

2. Declarations of Interest

Cllrs Mrs D Crook and Miss A Moloney – Community Association

3. Matters Arising from the Minutes of the Meeting held on 31 March 2008

Cllr Moloney has been in touch with Nick Harris from Mitie, and he would like to have a meeting with the Football clubs to encourage use of the pitches at Holmesdale. If more teams are using the pitches, it will reduce the cost of the pitches.

The Clerk will contact the football teams asking for possible meeting dates, and will arrange a meeting with Nick Harris to discuss.

The Town Council will be either an actor or actress of their choice at the carnival.

Cllr Block asked if a letter had been sent to the partnership about the bin outside the hairdressers. This will be taken to the partnership at their meeting on the 9 June.

4 Open Forum

4.1 Mr Comber is unable to attend this evening and he has asked the following questions: - Has there been any progress with extending the drinking exclusion zone to the recreation ground?

The clerk will contact TMBC to see how this is progressing.

Mr Comber also reported that he had called the police about youths setting fire to some material in the toddler play area. The police did not attend, but sent the fire brigade instead. The clerk will pass on Mr Comber's comments to the police.

Mr Comber also would like the committee to know that 99% of the allotments are being cultivated.

Mr Baldwin said a 'Tree' was growing in the guttering at the cricket pavilion. The Clerk has inspected the building, and the guttering does need clearing, and this is programmed into the daily work routine. The staff are inundated with clearing 'fly tips' and glass at the moment, and as soon as they have a spare slot the guttering will be cleared.

Mr Baldwin asked why the gate at the Cricket Meadow remained locked. The previous Council had agreed to keep the gate locked, to prevent disturbance through the night to the neighbouring houses. We have only had one complaint about the gate being locked. The clerk will look into changing the sign on the gate.

4.2 Kevin Bush gave an update of the Motorcycle event at Brookland Lake car park on the 1st June. Cllr Moloney congratulated Kevin on what appears to be a very well organised event.

4.3 Mr Seymour made a request to the council to either remove the damson trees in the recreation ground or trim them right back, as they are causing various problems to his and neighbouring properties.

The Clerk will arrange for the council staff to clear beneath the trees where possible to reduce the litter and youths. In September, if Mr Seymour would let us know when he is cutting back the branches growing into his garden, the council staff will remove them.

- 4.4 Cllr Moloney asked what the update was on the notice board for the Churchfields area. The notice board is here and we just need to site it.
- 4.5 KCC Landscape services have left deep ruts in the grass at Nevill Park, the clerk was assured that these had been re instated, however Cllr Moloney reported this is not the case, and there are now more of these since the last mowing. The clerk is going to inspect the park tomorrow and will take pictures of the damage. The clerk hopes to contact KCC Landscape services in the hope they will attend the inspection with her.
- 4.6 CCTV at Potyns, a meeting will take place with Stryker and the Snodland Partnership on the 21st May 2008; if any members of the council are able to attend they will be most welcome.
- 4.7 Cllr Block is concerned about the number of speeding motorists in and around the Town. The Clerk will pass on any information available to the police.
5. Allotments - Request for a Greenhouse
Kate Chapman requests the council's permission to erect a greenhouse 8'x6' on her allotment.
RECOMMENDATION to permit Kate Chapman to place a green house on her allotment plot 29a Sloughfields.
6. Boundary Walk
The boundary walk took place yesterday, with 23 people attending. Although it was a very hot day no one dropped out and no injuries were suffered.
The walk included a look at the site where the 'Battle of Britain' pilot crashed in September 1940.
Cllr Keeley expressed a special thank you to Mr Brian Morgan who led the walk.
7. Recreation Ground (easement required for small drain to be connected to main sewer).
An easement is requested from the council to go across the recreation ground to connect to the main sewer from the development at 95 Birling Rd.
The committee agree in principal subject to advice from the Borough Council and the district valuer. The clerk will report back to planning or policy.
8. Carnival
There will be a meeting on 30 May at 7.30 in the Moyeuve Grande suite.
Help on the day will be provided by Cllrs D Keeley and Luke Baldock taking care of the car park at Holmesdale Technology College, Cllrs Miss A Moloney and L Withey at Potyns and Cllr Boakes will help out on route.
The Clerk will contact Crossroads to request help with the collection buckets.
Cllr Block will ask Claremont cars if they would join the procession this year.
Cllr B Keeley will ask Stara if they have anyone who would MC at the Carnival.
9. Cricket Pavilion (Showers & Improvement to the kitchen
The clerk is waiting to receive another quote for the shower rooms; we hope to receive this by the Policy Meeting on 9 June.
Cllr block will meet with Michelle in the café on Wednesday afternoon regarding the upgrade of the kitchen area.
The clerks report on the inspection of the building was discussed. Quotes need to be sought for the various repairs that need to be carried out.
10. Brookland Park Café
The ventilation in the Brookland park café is inadequate for the amount of cooking taking place. The clerk is waiting for a letter from the borough council to confirm this, and when it has been received the town council will need to address this.

11. Play Equipment Inspection the play equipment inspection report has been received with a few minor repairs to be carried out.
RECOMMENDATION to pass on to 'Safe Play' to carry out the repairs.
12. CEMETERY – (Pathways – New legislation course in June)
The Clerk has requested quotes from several different contractors and has only received one quote to date.
There is a course in June on the upgrade of the current legislation.
RECOMMENDATION The clerk attends the course.
13. Cemetery Lodge
A verbal quote to install a gas supply at the cemetery lodge of between £4000 and £8000 from GTC. The committee agree that we need to look at alternative form of heating. Cllr Block suggested looking at 'Calor Gas' as an alternative gas supply, and if this does not prove viable, then perhaps oil.
The Clerk will also speak to Cllr Grayhurst to see if he has been able to find an alternative idea.
14. Potyns-Land Transfer and forward Plan, Car Park Gates, CCTV
There is no update on the Land Transfer at the moment.
There has been some confusion as to who should be opening the gates at Potyns on the weekends.
RECOMMENDATION Cllr Crook will ask the new caretaker at the community centre if he would be able to take this on at weekends and the Town Council will pay for his time.
CCTV has already been covered in Matters Arising.
Cllr Atkins asked if TMBC had sent through a list of prospective project managers for the extension to the playing fields. TMBC sent details of Workshops run by the F.A. and the Clerk has booked places on this course. A borough officer will attend and it was suggested we approach Mel Rayfield to see if he is available. The Clerk will inform the F.A. that we need an extra three places for the workshop.
15. Potyns – New Build at the Community Centre
There is no further update on what was reported at the Annual Meeting, other than the reserved matters for the development at the sports ground will come up at our planning meeting next Monday.
16. Nevill Park
The Clerk will inspect the park on Tuesday of this week and contact KCC Landscape services to resolve the problems.
17. Leybourne Country Park
Cllr Moloney asked who is responsible for the entrance by the Southern Water Gates.
The clerk thinks it may be Cemex and will pass this information to Darren Lanes.
18. Any other items which the chairman has decided are urgent owing to special circumstances.
Brook Street Property Developments have asked if the Town Council would be prepared to grant a Deed of Grant of Right of Way to cross our land.
RECOMMENDATION to agree to a Deed of Grant of Right of Way subject to the District Valuers report, also to include access at all times to the lake and car park.

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.