

AMENITIES AND RECREATION COMMITTEE

18 May 2009

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

Members of the Public present: Mrs S Hunter (Town Clerk)
Mr Baldwin, Mr P Rimmer, P Comber

- Extra Items: 10. Correspondence - Email re Cemetery
- Invitation to Try Angle Awards
- Chamber of Commerce – help at festival
11. Winch & Winch – Variation of new build at Potyns

Cllr D Keeley thanked all who attended the Bash the Trash event.

1. Apologies for absence
Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Mrs B Brown and C Grayhurst.
2. Declarations of Interest
Cllr Miss A Moloney – Community Association
- Allotment Association
Cllr Mrs D Crook – Community Association
3. Matters Arising from the Minutes of the Meeting held on 30 March 2009
Item 9.2 – Cllr Withey asked if the bus route had been reinstated. Cllr Tucker replied that this had taken place.
4. Questions from the Public
 - 4.1 Mr Comber requested that the overgrowth of vegetation along the footpath leading into the Recreation Ground from Birling Road be cut back. The Clerk would arrange for this to be done.
 - 4.2 Mr Rimmer asked if STC would agree to a short two minute firework display as a finale to the 'Bee Gees' on the Saturday night of the festival at approximately 9.30 pm. The 'new field' would need to be used for this purpose, and the Chamber of Commerce would pay to have the field cut.
The Committee can see no reason why this should not take place.
 - 4.3 Mr Rimmer asked if the Town Council could give confirmation of the date when the gym and boxing club would be finished. Cllr D Keeley answered that the proposed finish date would be the end of August, although this could be sooner.
 - 4.4 Mr Baldwin asked if a date had been given for the placement of a seat on the Maidstone platform at the railway station. Cllr Tucker had enquired about this and the railway company was unable to give a date when this would happen.
 - 4.5 Mr Baldwin asked if KCC had adopted Catts Alley, as the sign needs to be improved. The adoption of Catts Alley is still going through the process.
 - 4.6 Mr Baldwin also made STC aware that the street lighting in the TMBC car park was still day burning, and that the floor in the Café is getting worse. The Clerk will chase these items up.
5. Boundary Walk - Feedback
Thirty-five people and four dogs attended the walk and they arrived back between 3 and 3.15 pm. There were several younger people on the walk this year, which is encouraging and everyone enjoyed the day.

6. Allotments

Birling Lands allotment holders had a meeting last week and would like to know if the Council would agree to the following:

1. they would like to form an official association
2. they would like to know if hard standing could be provided on the first allotment as you enter, which has been left empty.
3. Could a skip be arranged for the 6 – 7 June.

The Committee agreed in principle and perhaps an application could be made to the Snodland Partnership for the hard standing. The Clerk will confirm the dates for a skip with Diane and Phil Martin and then contact Anywaste.

Standing Orders were suspended and Mr Comber explained how Sloughfields Allotment Association works.

Standing Orders were reinstated.

Cllr Mrs Boakes stated that four bags of 'green' rubbish can be put out with the green wheelie bin for composting.

7. Devonshire Rooms

The police should be moving out of the building in June, and the nursery would like to use the extension as a storage area. This would mean they could vacate the garage they currently use, with that rent paid to STC for the storage. A suggestion that a door be placed in the centre of the extension for access by the nursery, which would in turn be used as a fire escape from the current police office was put forward. The Clerk will obtain quotes for this work.

8. Potyns Extension

Cllr Keeley read a letter from Kevin Wise, which gave an update on the progress to the extension at Potyns field. The Committee is happy with the progress so far.

9. Twinning Visit

Sixteen French visitors will arrive on Saturday between 5 and 7 pm. The Mayor will arrive at 5.45 pm and our visitors will be welcomed by the Chairman of the Council, who will also present corporate gifts to them. Cllrs Mrs Keeley, Mrs Crook, L Baldock, C Block and the Clerk will arrive at 3.45 pm to set out chairs etc.

10. Correspondence

- 10.1 A letter from the Snodland Sports Association regarding the All Weather Pitch was read to the Committee. The SSA does not agree with STC and Safe Play regarding the condition of the All Weather Pitch and a request has been made to attend a site meeting. The All Weather Pitch is used on a regular basis by a variety of different user groups, who find the condition good.
The Clerk will arrange a meeting for a Friday evening with Committee members and the SSA. Safe Play will not be asked to attend as a charge would be involved as they are a company.
- 10.2 The Snodland Parking Plan – various elements of the plan was discussed by the Committee and the Clerk was asked to arrange a meeting with Karole Reynolds before 1 June 2009.
- 10.3 Snodland Chess Club – Cllr Keeley read a letter from Snodland Chess Club. Information that is official will come from either Neil Miners or David Lettington. Copies of the Chess Club's newsletter was distributed among the Committee.

- 10.4 Cllr Keeley read an email from Linda Huckle regarding the removal of the hedge and trees at the Cemetery. The Clerk will send a reply. When the time is right, the perimeter hedge will be cut back, keeping the specimen trees as previously agreed.
 - 10.5 An invitation to the Chairman of the Council to attend the Try Angle Awards at the Angel Centre, Tonbridge on Friday 3 July at 6.45 pm. Cllr Block and Cllr Ms Woolley will attend.
 - 10.6 A request from Mel Rayfield requesting help from Councillors at the Festival has been received. Cllrs Mrs Crook, Miss Moloney, Atkins have agreed to help. Cllr D Keeley can help on the Saturday and Cllr Withey will check to see if he can help on the Sunday.
11. Any Other Items which the Chairman has decided are urgent owing to special circumstances
- 11.1 Winch and Winch have sent through a Variation Agreement for the Gym and Boxing Club. The Committee agreed to the Variation.
 - 11.2 The goalposts in the Recreation Ground had to be removed as they had been vandalised.
The Clerk will obtain quotations to replace them.

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.