

## AMENITIES & RECREATION COMMITTEE

5 OCTOBER 2016

Committee Members present:	Cllrs D Keeley (C), P Hickmott, A Keeley, Mrs D King, Mrs D Crook
Council Members present:	Mrs K Sowten (Chief Executive) and Miss E Jones
Members of the public:	None present

1.	<p><u>Apologies for absence</u></p> <p>Cllrs Mrs S Bell, Mrs L Downes, Mrs B Keeley, Mrs K Mordecai-Woolf and P Misy.</p>
2.	<p><u>Declaration of Interests</u></p> <p>None.</p>
3.	<p><u>To agree the minutes of the meeting held on 1 August 2016</u></p> <p>The minutes of the Amenities &amp; Recreation Committee held on 1 August 2016 were agreed a correct record of the meeting.</p>
4.	<p><u>Questions from the public (<i>Members of the public are advised that they may speak for up to three minutes</i>).</u></p> <p>No members of the public were present.</p>
5.	<p><u>To receive a report from the Allotment Advisory Committee</u></p> <p>It was reported that several complaints had been made regarding bonfires being lit during the daytime. There is no definite legislation regarding lighting bonfires but it is recommended that bonfires should be lit after dusk. It was also reported that there would be an open meeting on 24<sup>th</sup> October 2016 at 7pm in the Devonshire Rooms.</p>
6.	<p><u>To receive a report from the Cemetery Advisory Committee</u></p> <p>In the absence of a Cemetery Advisory Committee member at the meeting, the CEO reported on matters which arose from the meeting. She reported that the 19 pine trees had been felled and the logs were in the process of being moved. This work is still in progress as there are a huge amount of logs to remove.</p> <p>A watercolour drawing was displayed to the committee which was drawn by a local resident. It depicts the cenotaph with an array of poppies surrounding it. It is to be hung in the chapel at the Cemetery.</p> <p>All the new kerbstones have been placed in the centre section of the Cemetery and are gradually being sold.</p> <p>The CEO reported that the single pine tree in the centre of the lawn section should be felled due to its close proximity to the graves. It was recommended by the Cemetery Site Manager that this should be felled as soon as possible before too many graves were purchased.</p> <p><b>RECOMMENDED</b> – that the pine tree should be felled.</p> <p>Two of the memorial benches need to be replaced as they are rotting. The CEO would obtain two prices, one for wooden slats and the other for metal slats. It was agreed that metal slats would be more hard-wearing.</p>

	<p>The CEO brought it to the Committee's attention that there was a difference in burial fees between the lawn section and the main section and wondered why this was the case? It was confirmed by Cllr Hickmott that the reason for this was that maintenance work to the main section was hampered by the surrounding kerbstones. On the lawn section it is much easier as there are only headstones to work around.</p>
7.	<p><u>To discuss accessibility issues in Nevill Park raised by a member of the public</u></p> <p>The CEO reported that she had received complaints regarding accessibility to Nevill Park (Sharnal Lane entrance). One resident suffered an injury when she tried to access Nevill Park from the Saltings Road entrance. The CEO presented overhead photographs to the Committee to show a disabled resident who was unable to gain access through the A-frame and had in the past caused damage to his wheelchair. It was reported that due to the varying size of current wheelchairs, the A-frames are now causing access problems for wheelchair users. The CEO reported that a gate with a lock has been discovered next to the existing A-frame at the Saltings Road entrance. The CEO said that the barrier on the A-frame could be adjusted, however this could lead to motor bikes gaining access to the park and causing nuisance and damage as this has happened in the past. The other alternative is for the gate area to be maintained, clearing the shrubbery and making good the pathway making it safe and accessible by radar key to provide suitable access to disabled residents.</p> <p><b>0184</b>     <b>RESOLVED</b> –To maintain the gate area. The CEO will obtain prices for the work to be undertaken.</p>
8.	<p><u>To receive a report following a meeting relating to future aspirations of the Snodland Football Club and the requirements needed to meet the FA's Standards, including options relating to screening</u></p> <p>The CEO presented a summary (copy held on file) relating to the future aspirations of Snodland Football club and of the meeting held between the club and Snodland Town Council on 24 August 2016.</p> <p>The CEO reported the long term aspirations of Snodland Town Football Club (STFC). She reported that the minimum covered accommodation must be for 250 people, 150 of which must be seated. They have acquired 50 seats already and have planning permission for another 50 seats. Long term aspirations will include more seating which will require further planning permission and guidance from STC.</p> <p>A further request for Step 4 criteria would be to install 2 turnstiles to enter the ground. A councillor suggested that STFC move to alternative premises but it was pointed out that STFC have been given a 30 year lease and the alternative area being suggested did not belong to Snodland Council.</p> <p><b>0185</b>     <b>RESOLVED</b> - to agree the criteria set out for Step 5 and Step 4.</p>

0186	<p>The next point raised was the screening around the perimeter of the pitch. Currently, the screening that is erected around the pitch is white and was deemed to be quite unsightly. It was suggested that green screening would be more subtle but the CEO reported that green screening was not available. Cllr Hickmottt reported that STFC were looking to plant soft landscaping around the pitch, similar to the hedging at the Bowls Club.</p> <p>The CEO presented overhead photographs of the soft landscaping at the Bowls Club to the Committee.</p> <p><b>RESOLVED</b> – to allow STFC to plant soft landscaping (similar to the Bowls Club) which can only be erected as high as the fence and no wider than 2ft. It should be stipulated that the maintenance of the hedging should be carried out by STFC. All conditions will be covered in their lease in the eventuality of vacation.</p>
9.	<p><u>To receive an update relating to Public Spaces protection orders</u></p> <p>The CEO reported that she had received a reply from TMBC. They are running a consultation on public spaces protection orders that will be going out shortly and will include all public open spaces, borough wide. These will include dog fouling, dogs on leads and maximum number of dogs and alcohol.</p>
10.  0187	<p><u>To receive an update relating to installation of Goal Posts for recreational use at Potyns</u></p> <p>Snodland Town Football Club have offered to donate goal posts for children to use which would detract them from damaging the goal posts at New Potyns. These would be a permanent fixture but would not include the nets. We will need to ensure that they are robust. It was proposed that one goal would be sufficient.</p> <p><b>RESOLVED</b> – to install a goal post donated by STFC against the ballpark fence</p>
11.	<p><u>To receive an update on the work completed at New Potyns</u></p> <p>The CEO reported that the fence has been erected at New Potyns and has received lots of positive reports from residents. A rubbish bin and dog bin has been ordered and are waiting to be delivered. The signs are up and benches are in situ.</p>
12.	<p><u>Correspondence</u></p> <p>The CEO reported that she had received a letter from a local resident complaining that the market traders stall rents are too high and was concerned that this may eventually deter market traders from using the market and thus impact on the future of the market. The CEO reported that she had explained to the resident that these fees are governed by the Market Trading Company and out of our control.</p>

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.30pm.