

SWAFFHAM TOWN COUNCIL - RECREATION GROUND COMMITTEE

Minutes of a Recreation Ground Committee Meeting on Wednesday 23rd January 2008 at 7.30p.m. in the Town Hall, Swaffham.

Present:- Mr. J. Stockdale (in the chair)

Committee Members: -

Cllr C. Baker, Mrs. A. Greaves, Cllr S. Lister, Miss V. Mason, Mrs. S. Palmer, Cllr F. Sharpe, Cllr J. Skinner, Mr. D. Tallon,
(also present Miss S. Mummery)

Mrs. M. Meyrick (Deputy Town Clerk)

Mr. R. Bishop (Town Clerk)

1. To receive apologies for absence.

Cllr Jennison – personal commitments.

Cllr Wickerson - illness

2. To receive declarations of interest for items on the agenda.

None

3. To agree the minutes of 7th November 2007.

The minutes were agreed by the Committee and signed by the Chairman as a true record.

4. To record the successful Big Lottery grant application of £45,000 and to receive information on the next step forwards for this grant.

Swaffham is one of six projects that are lucky to have won a grant. We are not able to move this project forward until the Deputy Town Clerk has attended a Big Lottery workshop which will take place at Breckland Council Thursday 21st February. One of the stipulations will be that we will have to formerly go out to tender as per the Big Lottery's rules. There will be other stipulations that will be revealed on the 21st. If one of the projects falls foul of the rules that could mean all the other projects will fail and have to give the grant back.

The previous contractors were Wicksteed, Monster and SMP to quote for this project. The Committee were asked if they were happy with these contractors, or if others should be approached? A company called Playscape has been in contacted and would like to quote?

A discussion followed: Could the criteria change? No the application details are the same. The Town Council will own the equipment but this must remain in position for a period of 10 years.

Who are the other projects? Beachamwell, Dereham + three others; Laura Apps-Green is co-ordinating things at Breckland. Are there rules of numbers using the rec? Yes we need to monitor it and possibly need a strategy to record the numbers.

Will progress reports be required to Laura or Breckland and then they collate and send off to the big lottery... Yes – this is how things work

It was unanimously agreed to go to tender with just the original three contractors.

5. To record the voting figures for the 'Peoples Millions' Sensory Garden Project.

The Deputy Town Clerk reported that Swaffham received a very respectable 3034 votes. A discussion centred on the effort that was put in and something was taken from the fact that the project received over 3000 votes. This shows we have support out there for the project. Concern was expressed about the day of the filming and it would have made a difference if the Lynn News had publicised the project on the Friday before voting. In general the way the second chance was revealed by the Big Lottery was unsatisfactory.

The Deputy Town Clerk thanked everyone for working so hard on the day... nothing more could have been done. The committee in turn thanked the Deputy Town Clerk for organising everything so well.

6. To receive information relating to a new grant that has become available.

Following on from the publicity of the Sensory Garden project the Deputy Town Clerk reported of a recent meeting with a grants officer who was interested in the project. From that discussion she informed me of a new grant that will be available in 2009 for up to £75,000 and £250,000. Two possible options were put forward: -

- 1) To apply to them for the Sensory Garden Project as it stands or
- 2) Apply to them for a bigger project that would incorporate toilets as well. This would be a building in the location of the current toilets that could house a community shop, toilets, youth room and community meeting space.

The Deputy Town Clerk reported that the application had a deadline of 30th May. The project cannot be of unique benefit to one specific group. A discussion took place that centred on possible user groups: Youth Council, Guides, Scouts, Brownies, Cubs, St. Johns Ambulance, SCALGA etc. An idea of a log cabin construction was put on the table – youth council meetings – nowhere for young people to meet etc – storage communal area – kitchen – all facilities available in conjunction with the big open space. The project had the potential to gain more support from the public for the variety of groups. The funding is available within 10 mile radius of recycling centre we are 9.8 miles. A concept plan is the first step before taking it any further... A business plan will be required after that if the principles are agreed.

The Deputy Town Clerk was instructed to put a concept plan together for the next meeting with the help of a log cabin Company to allow a final decision to be made on whether to proceed with the application.

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The Deputy Town Clerk reported that third party funding will be required e.g on a project of £200,000 the funding required would be £22,000. Breckland and Town Council can both be 3rd party funders...

The deadline for an application is the 30th May 2008 and you must include costings, business plan etc. This grant is for capital projects and you will not be able to claim any money back that you spend before the money is awarded or any management or professional fees. If concept plan is approved more information will need to be gathered before a business plan is written. This will also mean that consultation will need to be carried out on this specifically.

7. To receive a report relating to the 'Friends of Swaffham Rec'.

It was reported that no events have taken place recently – the next planned event is on 20th April day of the French Market

8. To discuss any other items for information only.

The Deputy Town Clerk reported that she had recently spoken to the sales rep from the company that deals with the play boulders. Even though we are too late for the Innovative Ideas grant (closed in December) she asked him to put together some ideas for the Rec. This might be something the Committee would like to work on in the future. Later this year Sport England are changing their grant criteria which might be of use to us. There followed a brief discussion but with no conclusions reached.

It was reported by the Deputy Town Clerk that Sport England are changing their criteria for grants from April. This was something that could be discussed when the extent of the changes are known.

It was reported that some money would be allocated to the Recreation Ground from Section 106 funding paid by developers in the town. There are two planning applications currently pending where substantial funds would come to the Recreation Ground to develop play facilities.

9. To agree date of next meeting.

Wednesday 27th February.

Meeting closed at 8.36pm

_____Chairman