

SWAFFHAM TOWN COUNCIL - RECREATION GROUND COMMITTEE

Minutes of a Recreation Ground Committee meeting held on Wednesday 3rd September 2008 at **6.30p.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. J. Skinner, Mr. D. Tallon, Cllr D. Wickerson

Mrs. M. Meyrick (Deputy Town Clerk)

Mr. R. Bishop (Town Clerk)

Public: 2

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

1.1. Cllr. T. Jennison.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

2.1. There were no declarations of interest.

3. MINUTES

3.1. The minutes of Wednesday 16th April 2008 were agreed by the Committee and signed as a true record by the Chairman.

3.2. The minutes of Wednesday 9th July 2008 were agreed by the Committee and signed as a true record by the Chairman.

4. EARLY YEARS PLAY PROJECT

4.1 The Deputy Town Clerk reported that this project was not completed on time and the opening event had to be cancelled. The safety inspection was carried out last Tuesday and a report was received by e-mail only this week. The access path had not been constructed on time and was disputed by the contractor, it had just been completed. A further e-mail has been sent to the contracts manager informing him of the concerns and the Directors PA has been copied in on this occasion.

4.2 There was a short discussion where it was stated that it was hoped that all outstanding issues would be rectified sooner rather than later. This would allow a date to be set for the opening at some stage, possibly the October half term. There was general disappointment with the contractor Proludic and support for the Deputy Town Clerk in her handling of the contractor. The key to getting what the Council want is to withhold payment, it is the contractors' duty to get things right before they leave the site. Breckland are ready to pay the Council the grant but everything must be as it should be before a completion certificate is accepted.

It was agreed to support the Deputy Town Clerk in her dealings with the contractor Proludic. To also insist on everything being safe before accepting a completion certificate and releasing payment.

5. WREN APPLICATION

5.1 No news as yet but the Deputy Town Clerk reported that she understood that the projects are being looked at over the next two weeks. The Council will be informed if they are likely to receive a visit from the WREN officer for the next stage. The Deputy Town Clerk reported that she and the Town Clerk would be putting together a synopsis of our project in preparation for if the project were chosen for the next stage, as time was short.

6. FRIENDS OF THE REC - re: Log stepping stones.

6.1 There was a brief discussion regarding the Log stepping stones project, as no progress had been made and very little research carried out, it was suggested that the project should be left until the play area is resolved. There would need to be further thought on this, as funding for whatever project for the capital cost is not the only issue, the Town Council would still have to agree to take on the long term maintenance and insurance costs.

It was agreed to leave the Log stepping stones until the play area is resolved and sufficient time could be devoted to do the necessary research.

6.2 It was reported that a number of Tea Dances had been organised by the Friends and had been very successful in terms of numbers attending, they were not good fundraising events, as the Friends are simply looking to break even at this stage. A grant application was under consideration.

6.3 A total of £3,000 has been raised by the Friends of the Rec to date.

7. ANY OTHER ITEM FOR INFORMATION ONLY

7.1 There followed another brief discussion about the possible opening date of the play area. The Deputy Town Clerk stated that she would circulate the Committee members with possible dates nearer the time, as the important thing was to first of all get the work finished to the required standard.

8. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

8.1 The date of the next meeting would be 19th November 2008. (Apologies received from Mrs. S. Palmer)

Meeting closed at 7.10 p.m.

_____Chairman.