

SWAFFHAM TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Recreation Ground Committee held in the Town Hall on Wednesday 16th February 2005 starting at 7.p.m.

Present: Cllr I. Sherwood (in the Chair)

Cllrs: Carol Baker, Pam Buxton, Anne Greaves, Sheila Lister, J. Stockdale

Samantha Mummery, Sally Palmer, Dennis Tallon.

Town Clerk:- Mr. R. Bishop

Deputy Town Clerk:- Mrs. M. Meyrick

1. Apologies and reasons for absence:-

1.1. Mrs. Jane Atkins, Cllr Ben Emmerson, Mr. Reg Dowden, Mrs. Sue Polaine-Leonard and Cllr P. Darby,

2. Declarations of Interest:-

2.1. There were no declarations of interest.

3. Minutes of 3rd November 2004:-

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

4. £50,000 match funding budget from the Town Council:

4.1. It was duly recorded that the Town Council agreed and earmarked £50,000 towards the Recreation Ground Project following a successful presentation at the November 2004 Council meeting by the Deputy Town Clerk.

5. Grant advice from the Rural Community Council.

5.1. The Deputy Town Clerk reported of a meeting with Geoffrey Leigh of the Rural Community Council last November that she attended with the Town Clerk. It was clear that this project would need community involvement to attract grants from various sources including the RCC. The RCC would be looking to give a small grant towards a specific piece of equipment. There is a resource centre at the RCC office based at Dereham, this can be used free of charge. It was suggested that one possibility might be to have a 'Friends of the Recreation Ground' to attract some grants from funders that do not support Town Council's. Geoffrey Leigh also suggested that in order to fund all of the facilities that are required, it might be necessary to break each part of the project down to gain the grants that will be needed.

6. Committee Structure.

6.1. There followed a full and frank discussion on the committee structure and in particular whether councillors should be in a majority. The delegated authority stated that the maximum number of councillors should be six and maximum members thirteen. It was established that all meetings were open to the public, and questions from the public attending meetings would be taken at the discretion of the Chairman. The matter of having advisory members was discussed, but it was felt that to encourage full participation by members of the public would be a better way to proceed. Committee members would also be encouraged to talk to community groups in order to gain their views. The discussion concluded with a proposal by Cllr J. Stockdale, seconded by Cllr S. Lister to have a committee of eleven members, with councillors in a majority with six appointed members.

It was agreed to have a committee of eleven members with councillors in a majority with six appointed members.

6.2. Following a further short discussion it was proposed by Cllr S. Lister, seconded by Cllr P. Buxton to allow the Chairman the discretion to encourage public participation by inviting questions from the public.

It was agreed to allow the Chairman the discretion to encourage public participation by inviting questions from the public

7. The next step forward for the Recreation Ground project.

7.1. The Deputy Town Clerk asked whether the committee would like her to summarize where the project is at present and give target dates estimating the timescale when things will happen. There followed a brief discussion on this.

8. Date of the next meeting.

8.1. Wednesday 16th March 2005 at 7pm in the Council Chamber.

Meeting closed at 8.05p.m.

_____Chairman