

SWAFFHAM TOWN COUNCIL - RECREATION GROUND COMMITTEE

Minutes of a Recreation Ground Committee Meeting held on Wednesday 28th June 2006 commencing at 6.30p.m. in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Swaffham.

Present:- Cllr Jerome Stockdale(in the chair)

Cllr Anne Greaves, Cllr Sheila Lister, Cllr Carol Baker,
Dennis Tallon, Andy Panes, Vicky Mason,

1. To receive apologies for absence.

Sally Palmer and Sue Polaine-Leonard.

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

None received.

3. To agree the minutes of 28th March 2006.

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

4. To notify of Councillor committee vacancies & elect Vice Chairman 2006/07.

The Deputy Town Clerk advised the committee that due to recent resignations from the Town Council, former councillors Paul Darby and Ben Emmerson were no longer committee members, but they can continue as non-voting members if they wish. There were two vacancies to be filled by councillors and it was hoped that this could be done soon as the by-election was held last week on the 22nd June. Cllr Ben Emmerson was also Vice Chairman, thus leaving a vacancy for 2006/07. Dennis Tallon was proposed as Vice Chairman for the forthcoming year by Cllr Anne Greaves, and seconded by Andy Panes.

<p>Dennis Tallon was unanimously elected as Vice Chairman of the Recreation Ground Committee for 2006/07.</p>
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5. To receive information regarding the Premises Licence for the Recreation Ground.

The Deputy Town Clerk advised that Cllr Anne Greaves and the Town Clerk attended the Licence Committee hearing at Breckland Council last Wednesday 21st June. Breckland Council granted the licence following an hour and a half of presenting the case, being questioned by the committee and objectors. Cllr Anne Greaves reported that there was a police issue raised which she will take to the full Council meeting. The objectors were local residents who were mainly concerned about the anti-social behaviour at times when the conditions of the licence would not apply. The point being that more events could add to the anti-social behaviour. This point was not accepted by the committee; however they were concerned at the absence of CCTV at the Recreation Ground. They encouraged the Town Council to install this at the earliest opportunity, again not accepting the wish of the objectors that the licence should only be granted when CCTV is installed. The Town Clerk stated that the licence allows for one event where music can be played each month. If an event spans more than one day it is still counted as one event. e.g. the annual visit of the Circus which is open for 4 or 5 days counts as one event.

6. To receive information regarding timescales of the Heritage Lottery Fund.

The Deputy Town Clerk stated that the early signs from the Heritage Lottery Fund officer are not encouraging. A great deal more information has been asked for with regards to various parts of the application. There is still an issue to overcome with regards to heritage value of the Recreation Ground. There is more evidence to collect on the different users of the Rec and a further survey on the future users to be done. It was reported that Sally Palmer would organise a youth group to assist with the survey. The timescale is six months for the first stage, six months assessment and review, and then a further six

months before any grant would be forthcoming. The earliest period that the Committee would know whether they had been successful would be July 2007.

7. To receive a copy of the plan of the project for planning permission purposes.

The Deputy Town Clerk had circulated a copy of the plan drawn up by Norfolk Property Services. It was reported that the planning fee would be approximately £1,250, this is half price as the application is from a Town Council. There followed detailed discussion on whether the plans were suitable or whether they should be changed. It was stressed that to change the plans now would in fact cost a further fee. It was also stated that at a later date changes may be made by the planning authority or amended to suit a particular grant funding organisation. It may be better to alter the plans after permission had been granted and only if absolutely necessary. Following this debate, it was proposed by Cllr S. Lister, seconded by Cllr C. Baker to accept the plans as they are, as to alter them would delay matters further.

It was agreed unanimously to accept the plans for the Recreation Ground as drawn up by Norfolk Property Services.

8. To discuss and agree consultation exercise with residents surrounding the recreation ground.

The Deputy Town Clerk opened a discussion by reporting of a complainant who visited the Town Hall last week. She stated she explained the project and what the committee hope to achieve. It was suggested that a flyer should be put together and distributed in advance of the planning application going in, to also hold a consultation event showing the plans at the Town Hall. The discussion ventured into past experiences from the installation of the skateboard park. This began with negative attitudes and yet once it was given the time it needed to be used properly the negative attitudes changed. The Deputy Town Clerk stressed that with this project she recommended being completely upfront with the community. A Saturday morning in October was suggested as the best day for the consultation day, a press release would also be desirable. The town newsletter and the Icenis newsletter were suggested as good ways of communicating with the public.

In summary, it was agreed to draft a flyer which could be circulated to residents around the Recreation Ground prior to submitting the planning application. It was agreed to hold a consultation day at the Town Hall on a future Saturday in October to be decided. A press release would be prepared and circulating similar details through the town and Icenis newsletters.

9. To discuss information regarding recycling credits.

The Deputy Town Clerk reported of a discussion with Teresa Tufts at Breckland Council she had recently regarding Recycling Credits. A formal proposal would have to go to Breckland Council for them to consider giving the credits to the Town Council.

It was unanimously agreed to produce a Recycling Credit proposal together for the committee to agree before putting before the Full Council at a future date.

10. Any other related issues for discussion only.

There were no further items put forward for discussion.

Meeting closed at 7.30 p.m.

_____ Chairman