

AMENITIES COMMITTEE

Minutes of the Amenities Committee held in the Council Chamber, Totton & Eling Civic Centre at 7.15 p.m. on Wednesday 13th January 2010.

PRESENT Chairman - Councillor Mrs. D.M. Brooks
Councillors D.A. Britton, T.M. Bushrod, Mrs. A.A. Coffin, L.E. Harris,
D.A. Hibbert, D.J. Russell, R.F. Scrivens and Mrs. L.E. Weeks.

Also present : Councillor C. Lagdon

The Town Clerk for Agenda Item 10 – regarding the electric vehicle.
The Deputy Town Clerk and Administrative Officer.

APOLOGIES An apology for absence was received from Councillor
N.S. Penman.

DELEGATED RESOLUTIONS NOT REQUIRING THE APPROVAL OF THE FULL COUNCIL

- 7/10 MINUTES RESOLVED
that the Minutes of the meeting held on the 11th November 2009 be signed
as a true record.
- 8/10 MINUTES OF THE CARNIVAL WORKING GROUP HELD ON
14 DECEMBER 2009
The meeting considered the Minutes of the Carnival Working Group.
RESOLVED that the attached Minutes of the Carnival Working Group
held on 14th December 2009 be agreed.
- 9/10 MINUTES OF THE HANGER FARM ARTS CENTRE CONSULTATIVE
COMMITTEE HELD ON 30 NOVEMBER 2009
The meeting considered the Minutes of the Hanger Farm Arts Centre
Consultative Committee.
RESOLVED that the attached Minutes of the Hanger Farm Arts Centre
Consultative Committee held on 30th November 2009 be agreed.
- 10/10 REPORT OF THE PADDLING POOLS FOR 2009 SEASON
The Deputy Town Clerk presented the report prepared by the Health and
Safety Officer.
RESOLVED that the report of the Paddling Pools for 2009 season be noted.
- 11/10 OPTIONS FOR TESTWOOD PADDLING POOL
The Deputy Town Clerk presented his report. As Testwood Paddling Pool
had reached a critical maintenance point and now needed extensive works to
make it serviceable for the 2010 season, the costed options available were :
(a) Minimal repair works to the pool surface and painting the surface, to
enable the pool to be opened in May 2010, estimated cost £15000.00
(b) Minimal repair works to the pool surface, using rubber granules instead
of pool paint, estimated cost £30000.00

(c) Various options including water features and retention of some traditional paddling areas – including closure during the 2010 season, estimated cost £120,000.00 to £260,000.00

(d) Additional cost to each option to provide new bow top fencing £12000.00

(e) Additional cost to each option to include pavings £7000.00

Members discussed the position, and the likelihood of the pool being enhanced with a minimal feature such as a fountain. It was RESOLVED that the Deputy Town Clerk obtain detailed quotations from companies for the renovation work required at Testwood Pool, to also include the possibility of some types of basic water feature, and report the outcome to the next meeting of the Committee.

12/10 RESULTS OF RESIDENTS SURVEY REGARDING CALMORE ROAD PLAY AREA

The Deputy Town Clerk presented his report. Of the 100 survey letters issued, there had been 4 returned. Of these, 3 wanted the play area removed and returned to nature; and the fourth wanted the play area to remain and be improved. Members discussed the issue, and it was proposed by Councillor Mrs. D.M. Brooks and seconded by Councillor D.J. Russell and unanimously agreed to remove the equipment for use at other play areas in the Town in the future, and restore the ground area to a natural landscape. RESOLVED that the equipment be removed from Calmore Road play area and retained for future use elsewhere in the Town, and the area be restored to a natural landscape.

13/10 SPONSORSHIP FOR PLAY AREAS

The Deputy Town Clerk enquired whether Members wished to make further enquiries regarding sponsorship for play areas within the Town. RESOLVED that the Town Council follow up the possibility of engaging individuals and businesses to sponsor play areas within the Town.

14/10 THE ELECTRIC MEGAVAN AND FUTURE VEHICLE REPLACEMENTS

The Town Clerk presented his report of the test data of the electric van, and also highlighted the report provided by one of the Maintenance Technicians who operated the vehicle. Concerns had been raised over payload, speed, electricity consumption and safety following one month of usage. The Town Clerk explained that following his own concerns, he had on that day temporarily withdrawn the van and a conventional vehicle had been hired on a short term lease to enable the technicians to continue working normally. Members discussed the issues and shared the general concern that the van was not proving satisfactory for use, and did not meet the specification listed by the manufacturer. The Town Clerk also explained that the van used by the Health and Safety Officer was due for replacement in the near future and he would be unhappy to purchase another megavan for fleet replacement. Further discussions followed and it was unanimously RESOLVED that

(a) the Town Clerk arrange to meet with the providers of the electric megavan, for discussion over the problems encountered since it's purchase, to ascertain if it is possible to rectify the situation,

- (b) if the provider was unable to satisfactorily resolve the issues discussed then the Town Clerk be given approval to seek legal advice on the situation, including a refund and return of the vehicle,
- (c) that the Town Clerk report back to the next meeting with the latest position regarding the vehicle,
- (d) that the Health and Safety Officers existing vehicle be, if possible, purchased and used until such time as a more “green” suitable alternative is available.

NON DELEGATED RESOLUTIONS REQUIRING THE APPROVAL OF THE FULL COUNCIL

15/10 ANY OTHER URGENT BUSINESS

ATC building at Cheam Way

The Deputy Town Clerk highlighted the request made on behalf of the South East Reserve Forces and Cadets Association to position an additional temporary building on the land owned by the Town Council at Cheam Way. The Chairman of Amenities Committee suggested that the Town Council should seek to encourage the activity of such organisations. It was unanimously

RECOMMENDED that in principle permission be granted to the South East Reserve Forces and Cadets Association to position an additional building on the land owned by the Town Council at Cheam Way (subject to all statutory consents e.g. planning to be obtained by the Air Training Corps).

DELEGATED RESOLUTIONS NOT REQUIRING THE APPROVAL OF THE FULL COUNCIL

16/10 EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS

RESOLVED that in view of the confidential nature of the business about to be transacted, it is in the opinion of this Committee advisable in the public interest that the public and press be temporarily excluded and they are instructed to withdraw.

NON DELEGATED RESOLUTIONS REQUIRING THE APPROVAL OF THE FULL COUNCIL

17/10 CALMORE GYM

The Deputy Town Clerk presented his report highlighting the financial situation prevailing at the Gym at Calmore Community Centre. This included the result of discussions and recommendations made to increase income. Six months have subsequently elapsed since the increase in fees to the Gym which now was entering the period of lower income winter months. Members discussed the situation and it was

RECOMMENDED that the fee paid to the Gym at Calmore Community Centre for safeguarding the building, locking and unlocking for functions and managing the multi-sport be continued for a further six months when a review can be undertaken on a full trading year, with recommendations brought back for consideration.

18/10 THE CAFE AT WEST TOTTON CENTRE

The Deputy Town Clerk presented his report. It was noted that issues had arisen with the rent situation with the operation of the café at West Totton Centre.

RECOMMENDED that

- (a) the Deputy Town Clerk pursue an urgent meeting with the operator, to discuss the current financial situation prevailing for the operator, and to find a solution as soon as possible,
- (b) financial information be provided for full scrutiny by officers and reported to Members of the Council,
- (c) that the results are taken to the next Meeting of the Amenities Committee for further discussion prior to any decision being taken on lease re-negotiations.

The meeting closed at 8.05 pm.