

AMENITIES COMMITTEE

Minutes of the Amenities Committee held in the Council Chamber, Totton & Eling Civic Centre at 7.15 p.m. on Wednesday 12th July 2017

PRESENT Chairman - Councillor Mrs. D.M. Brooks
Councillors D.A. Britton, A.L. Brunson, A.H. Davis, L.E. Harris and
F.T. Morris.

The Town Clerk, Deputy Town Clerk and Executive Officer.

Also present: Councillors Ms K.V. Crisell, M. Kangarani and Ms C.L. Rackham.

APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors T.M Bushrod, Miss S.J. Earl, & D.J. Russell.

DELEGATED RESOLUTIONS NOT REQUIRING THE APPROVAL OF THE FULL COUNCIL

- 91/17 MINUTES RESOLVED
that the Minutes of the meeting held on the 10th May 2017 be signed as a true record.
- 92/17 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST
Councillor L. E. Harris declared an interest in item 4 as he is a Member of the Totton Carnival Committee. Councillor Ms C.L. Rackham declared an interest in item 6 as she is a Member of the Hounslow Hall Community Association.
- 93/17 EVENT DATES AND ADMINISTRATION FEES FOR LICENCE ISSUE
The Town Clerk explained that there had been requests from the Carnival and the Totton Funday to hold their events on the same day over the years, which had also conflicted with events in the surrounding areas. He asked the Committee for their view with regard to this matter. This was discussed and it was felt that because the Funfair, which was held in conjunction with the Carnival, had national scheduling issues and this particular event raised monies for so many local causes, this event should be given the first option to choose their preferred date.

The Town Clerk further explained that the requests to use Town Council land, and the subsequent required licence issue had hugely increased over the last few years and as these took some considerable time to formulate and administer, he would recommend that a charge be made for each licence issued as follows; Non-commercial events at £25.00, Commercial events based on individual researched costs and Personal events at £15.00 per booking. The matter was discussed and the general consensus was that these charges were considered reasonable and agreed with costs to be reviewed on an annual basis. Additionally, any banner display charges would be reviewed at a later date.

RESOLVED that (a) the Carnival/Funfair event be given the first option with regard to their requested dates and that the Town Clerk be given authorisation to ensure all event dates did not conflict with other events' interests in Totton and the surrounding area.

(b) The above licence administration fees be charged from 2018 with costs being annually reviewed, and any banner display charges to be reviewed at a later date.

(Councillor L.E Harris declared an interest in this item as he is a Member of the Totton Carnival Committee. As this was not considered a pecuniary interest and therefore unprejudicial he remained in the meeting but abstained from discussion).

94/17 UPDATE ON CURRENT PROJECTS

The Deputy Town Clerk gave the following update on current projects:

Dog Exercise area at King George V Recreation Ground – tenders for the SANGS project were to be received by 21st July with an anticipated start at the end of September 2017.

Football Change refurbishment at Testwood Recreation Ground – tenders were to be invited with an anticipated start date of October 2017.

Calmore Community Centre Pre-School – new pre-school planned to start in January 2018 and quotes were being sought for the required external space in this regard.

Hanger Farm Tennis Centre Floodlights – Quotations were being sought for LED replacement of the present faulty lights.

Civic Centre and Totton & Eling Community Centre Boiler – Quotations were being obtained to replace the existing antiquated oil fuelled boiler, together with a more cost effective gas supply.

Eling Tide Mill Experience – Works were progressing well and on schedule, with an anticipated opening for Spring 2018. Councillors would be invited for a tour of the works shortly once health & safety regulations allowed. A request for a Royal opening would be considered upon completion of the relevant required documentation.

Garage Youth Centre Teenager's Shelter – work was programmed to commence this week, with completion within one week.

Arts Centre Air Conditioning – works had already commenced and were due for completion by 31st July 2017.

RESOLVED that the above updates be noted.

95/17 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 DELGATED ITEMS REQUIRING THE APPROVAL OF THE FULL COUNCIL

96/17 HOUNSDOWN HALL LEASE

The Town Clerk explained that the New Forest District Council had issued a 25 year lease for the land to the Town Council approximately 30 years ago and that the Town Council had then subsequently built the existing Hounsdow Hall. The lease had expired a while ago, but renewal had been put on hold due to the possible change in the land's use. The present rent was £1600 per annum, with some possible back rent requested by New Forest District Council, and the proposed new rental figure had been suggested at approximately £8500. This matter was discussed and it was felt that support to the Hounsdow Community Association for the supply of community activities should not rest solely with the Town Council by way of subsidy to the Association, but be a shared responsibility with the New Forest District Council, thus making the proposed rental increase unacceptable. It was agreed that the Town Clerk would write to the New Forest District Council voicing the Town Council's concern at the amount of increase in rent.

RECOMMENDED that the Town Clerk communicate the Town Council's unacceptability of the proposed rental increase to the New Forest District Council and report any update at the next Amenities meeting.

(Councillor Ms C.L. Rackham declared an interest in this item as she is a Member of the Hounsdow Hall Community Association. As this was not considered a pecuniary interest and therefore unprejudicial she remained in the meeting but abstained from discussion).

The meeting closed at 8.05 pm