

## COMMUNITY AMENITIES COMMITTEE

Minutes of the Community Amenities Committee held at the Community Rooms Pavilion, Soham on Monday, 18 February 2019.

Present Cllr E Johnston (Chair) C Warner, P Lane, D Woricker, H Ross, G Ginn, C Palmer, G Dyer and Mesdames R Aitchison & A Pallett (from 8:15pm)

Prior to the start of the meeting Cllr Johnston brought in to show members one of the two original glass panels taken from the front door of the Pavilion in the 1970's and recently rediscovered and re-donated by their current custodians back to the town council. It was agreed that where possible these panels should be repaired (conserved) and reinstated.

COM01/19 **PUBLIC COMMENT TIME**

No comments were received from members of the public

COM02/19 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE OF COUNCILLORS**

Apologies were received from Cllrs Chapman and Horman and duly approved by committee members.

COM03/19 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations made by members to items on the agenda. However it was noted that Cllr Palmer who might have personal and/or prejudicial interests due to his own land holdings but that due to this knowledge he would be invaluable regarding matters related to COM 05/19F (land assets)<sup>1</sup>. It was subsequently approved by the membership and with his agreement that he should remain in the meeting to assist the membership in their deliberations and any approvals subsequently made in regards to COM 05/19F.

COM04/19 **MINUTES OF MEETING HELD 15 OCTOBER 2018**

Minutes of the community amenities committee meeting of the 15 October 2018, having been previously approved by full council at its November 2018 meeting, were received by members.

COM05/19 **MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES – to include**

NOTED WITH OF VOTE OF THANKS to the town council's ground staff for their continuing efforts in maintaining the playground area in a clean and well kept manner.

a) **CCTV update**

NOTED the poor and uneconomic to repair condition of the High St cameras which are being adopted and that a rolling programme of replacement will be needed to replace them (budget consideration) over the next 2-5 years.

b) **Adizone Update**

NOTED quote received to remove all equipment and to remove to storage FOC at a local farm in order of £12 000 (tarmac to be removed and disposed of and ground works in restitution not included)

NOTED Cllr Warners suggestion to invite Victor Le-Grand Senior Leisure Services Officer at ECDC who he recently met at the Parish

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<sup>1</sup> Due to the commercially sensitive nature of this matter under exclusion of the public and press (non in attendance at meeting)

Conference to advise regarding the ongoing health safety and vandalism issues at the Adizone area.

APPROVED this matter should be listed for full council consideration at its next meeting.

**c) Town Signs**

NOTED signs should be ready for installation in March 2019.

NOTED supporting oak poles to be provided/organised by Soham Town Council, to re-site the new signs at each end of the town in the original positions and to re-use the original brick housings/plinths but to revise them to avoid the water damage that caused the HS&E issues in the first place (specification to be confirmed by sign suppliers)

APPROVED to organise an official unveiling of town signs (press to be invited).

**d) Barway (Land)**

NOTED Cllr Johnston has arranged a meeting at the Pavilion on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> March 2019 commencing 7pm for Barway residents to engage and be consulted regarding the disposal or otherwise of the land on which the hall originally was built (charitable asset).

NOTED Cllr Johnston has hand delivered flyers in invitation to all residents in Barway for their information/consideration on this matter.

**e) Skatepark**

NOTED repairs to concrete surfaces to commence April 2019 (subject to weather conditions) and that this might include slight modification to the ramps to make them more challenging.

NOTED repairs will be limited in warranty due to the degeneration of the concrete sub-layers (stones that are now breaking away) and it will be necessary to replace the entire skate park in the next 5-7 years.

**f) Land Registry (TC Assets)**

NOTED WITH A VOTE OF THANKS to Mr Garry Harlock who spent a whole day with Cllr Johnston walking/inspecting circa 90 acres of land in Soham & Barway.

Following significant discussion:

APPROVED current Land Agent should concentrate efforts/feasibility of acquiring 3 specific areas of land in Soham

**g) 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Soham Railway Station**

NOTED St Andrew's Church will hold a service of commemoration at the site and exact time of the explosion (Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2019 01:45 am) a themed Sunday service (time to be announced) followed by a full peel of bells that will ring out constantly for 3 hours.

NOTED that an exhibition supported by Soham Town Council will be at the Soham Carnival (housed in the Scout and Girl Guide building) and then this display will be moved to St Andrew's Church for a period of time.

NOTED Soham Museum will be holding an exhibition of materials related to the Soham Railway Station explosion at the Football Club

NOTED Cllr Aitchison request that anyone who have or know someone who has experiences or memories of the event to please forward details and recollections on to her.

**Other matters arising:**

**i) Soham Youth Football**

NOTED Cllr Johnston has organised 2 meetings but have had to be cancelled at short notice due to illness of invitees.

NOTED that whilst Cllr Johnston will try to organise another meeting between interested parties the town council is not providing any funds to facilitate the potential move of Soham Youth Football team from

current town council owned site when its lease expires 2023 to Ross Peers sports centre.

**ii) Speedwatch**

NOTED Cllr Warner and 3 volunteers currently have undertaken requisite training and their first speed watch monitoring event (top of Kingfisher Drive) identified 3 motorists breaking speed limits

NOTED more volunteers are needed to physically undertake traffic speed work on those roads that are of speeding concern.

NOTED that the software necessary to download the data and provide information needs to be installed in the office.

**lii) Millennium Signs**

NOTED the Chairman's continued enquiry to Cllr Warner regarding the status and whereabouts of these signs given his decision to engage this local supplier contrary to those previous approvals and actions to progress matters,

NOTED Cllr Warner remains unsatisfied with the quality of the signs.

COM06/19 **PAVILION (AND RECREATION GROUND) TO INCLUDE: Approvals, Fees and charges (last years in parenthesis) relating to:**

**A) Fair 2019 L Gray & Sons proposed dates April 23-28<sup>th</sup> 2019 (£100 ex VAT when open to public, £75 ex VAT when not)**

APPROVED to charge per day for recreation ground use same as last financial year-£100 ex VAT when open to public, £75 ex VAT when not (Pavilion not used).

**B) Heavy Horse Soham and Carnival Monday 27<sup>th</sup> May 2019 (charged concession hourly rate for Pavilion/request waive byelaws pertaining to animals/dogs on recreation ground)**

APPROVED to charge 2019-20 concession hire rates (£16 per hour inclusive of VAT) for pavilion with no additional charges for use of recreation ground with exception of the £100 deposit charge<sup>2</sup>

NOTED letter from organising committee requesting waiver of byelaws relating to dogs and animals on the recreation ground

APPROVED BY MAJORITY (Cllrs Johnston and Aitchison voting against) that with the exception of those organisers/organising committees/community group of public open space events/activities who are undertaking and therefore responsibility for any official dog show/event and where making appropriate written request to the town council to waive these byelaws, then no dogs/animals will be allowed on the recreation ground.

APPROVED that where these conditions for dogs/animals on the recreation ground are not applicable to the organisers/organising committees/community groups and those organisers/organising committees/community groups fail to stop dogs coming onto the recreation ground during public open space events they will be considered in breach of their hire conditions, held liable for damages (minimum will have their £100 deposit forfeited) and may have their application to undertake similar public open space events in future subject to refusal on those grounds.

APPROVED that the issue of 'no dogs on the recreation ground' rule should be reinforced by those non-qualifying organisers of public open space events in their advertising and promotional literature

**C) Beer Festival 6<sup>th</sup> July 2019 (charged concession hourly rate for Pavilion inc VAT – last year's complaints regarding dogs)**

APPROVED to charge 2019-20 concession hire rates (£16 per hour

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<sup>2</sup> Subject to forfeit but no limited to additional/excessive call outs to caretakers, damage to recreation ground surface, dogs on recreation ground

inclusive of VAT) for pavilion with no additional charges for use of recreation ground with exception to the £100 deposit charge (see footnote 1 below)

APPROVED that where these conditions for dogs/animals on the recreation ground are not applicable to the organisers/organising committees/community groups and those organisers/organising committees/community groups fail to stop dogs coming onto the recreation ground during public open space events they will be considered in breach of their hire conditions, held liable for damages (minimum will have their £100 deposit forfeited) and may have their application to undertake similar public open space events in future subject to refusal on those grounds.

APPROVED that the issue of 'no dogs on the recreation ground' rule should be reinforced by those non-qualifying organisers of public open space events in their advertising and promotional literature

**D) Pumpkin Fair 28<sup>th</sup> September 2019 (charged concessionary rate for Pavilion inc VAT)**

APPROVED to charge 2019-20 concession hire rates (£16 per hour inclusive of VAT) for pavilion with no additional charges for use of recreation ground with exception to the £100 deposit charge (see footnote 1 above)

APPROVED that where these conditions for dogs/animals on the recreation ground are not applicable to the organisers/organising committees/community groups and those organisers/organising committees/community groups fail to stop dogs coming onto the recreation ground during public open space events they will be considered in breach of their hire conditions, held liable for damages (minimum will have their £100 deposit forfeited) and may have their application to undertake similar public open space events in future subject to refusal on those grounds.

APPROVED that the issue of 'no dogs on the recreation ground' rule should be reinforced by those non-qualifying organisers of public open space events in their advertising and promotional literature

COM07/19 **ANY OTHER MATTERS REQUIRING COMMITTEE CONSIDERATION AND DECISION:**

NOTED hire terms and conditions of the Pavilion and recreation ground are now current and compliant with legislation including automatic annual fee and rate rises

NOTED that matters regarding community amenities, with exception of those strategic decisions taken by full council, are considered now to operate under normal business activities by the town council's offices (Clerk and Assistant Clerk).

NOTED that current schedule of Standing Committee meetings throughout the year (quarterly) is inadequate in providing and assisting with timely recommendations and approvals to advance those strategic decisions taken by full council.

NOTED that no member(s) are currently willing to assume responsibility of delegation to these strategic issues to progress these matters a timely manner.

NOTED that as consequence of these limitations that the Finance & Policy Committee of which the Chairperson of the Community Amenity Committee is a member is having to take decisions and approvals (for subsequent ratification by full council at its next/following meeting).

APPROVED TO RECOMMEND to council that the standing committee of Community Amenities should continue and retain a quorate membership (3) with an elected (yearly) Chairperson who

would have the autonomy, responsibility and authority to call committee meetings<sup>3</sup> on an 'as and when' and not as currently the automatic quarterly basis, to be able to convene working parties/groups of the committees membership and to represent the committee at monthly Finance & Policy meetings under its terms of reference

NOTED & STRESSED that the members of the Community Amenities Committee as all members of the public remain entitled and are encouraged to attend to observe the monthly Finance & Policy Committee meetings (but may vote or participate).

COM 08/19 **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

NOTED UNDER APPROVAL COM 07/19 the next meeting of the Community Amenities Committee to be advised.

**The meeting closed at 9:05pm**