

20th July 2023

Minutes of the proceedings of the **Leisure Committee** held this day in the **Kitty Dancy Room, Sandhurst Community Hall Complex, Sandhurst** commencing at **7.30pm** and finishing at **8.59pm**.

PRESENT

Chairman: Cllr Mrs J Bettison
Councillors: P Bettison, D Birch, G Birch, M Forster, Dr S Forster, Mrs H Hill, Mrs M Mossom, R Mossom, P Panesar.

IN ATTENDANCE

Executive Officer: Angela Carey
Deputy Executive Officer: Martina O’Keeffe-Johnston

Non-voting representatives:

A Birch (Sandhurst Cricket Club)
A Bromage (Sandhurst Tennis Club)
C Faro (Sandhurst Cricket Club)
J Sheppard (Sandhurst Gardening Club)
B Penn (Sandhurst Tug of War)

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE (Agenda item 1)

Apologies for absence were received and accepted from Councillor:

Mrs J Alves De Sousa (Indisposed)

Mrs S Davenport (Indisposed)

Mrs P Limbu (Indisposed)

P Widdowson (indisposed)

(Formal apologies are only recorded for councillors and are not recorded for the non-voting representatives of clubs and groups).

MEMBERS’ INTERESTS (Agenda item 2)

There were no declarations of interest on the business to be discussed.

MINUTES OF THE LEISURE COMMITTEE (Agenda item 3)

It was proposed by Cllr Mrs J Bettison and seconded by Cllr G Birch and the following was

**RESOLVED
2990**

that the minutes of the Leisure Committee meeting held on 25th May 2023 (pages 1409-1413) be received as a true and correct record and that they be confirmed and signed by the Chairman (Unanimous).

ACTION: EO

THE ALT PROV (Agenda item 11 moved forward)

A presentation was received from Aaran Bayle concerning the facility that The Alt Prov are offering for young people who suffer with non-attendance in education. This could be for many differing reasons including anxiety, exclusion, nonattendance, external factors.

The facility has people aged 13-18 attend during term time from 9am – 3pm. This provides a safe space for vulnerable young people to be able to learn skills. They work towards City & Guilds in various trades, and some have now gained work following their achievements at the facility. The facility is



currently sited at Bottom Meadow however there has been a request for the facility to move out of that area received from the SB Group who are the current lease holders of the area. STC were asked to consider allowing The Alt Prov to relocate to another site on the park. Further to discussion it was proposed by Cllr Mrs J Bettison and seconded by Cllr D Birch and the following was

**RESOLVED
2991**

that permission to relocate is approved subject to STC being provided with and accepting a full proposal including rent for the facility, planning permission for the containers that are used as classrooms is obtained, all relevant professional & educational certificates being provided. The sites suggested are either on the land behind the Sports Club opposite the Tennis Courts or the area at the back of the Jubilee Field which is currently unused.

ACTION: EO

LARGE EVENTS (Agenda item 4)

- a) An update on the Summer of Fun Event was received. The event plans have now been finalised and all vendors confirmed. All Councillors have been asked to let the Executive Officer know if they are able to volunteer to help on the day with parking and fund-raising tasks.
- b) An update was received following the Armed Forces Flag Raising Event. The RMAS personnel were outstanding as always. The Ghurkha dancing was very popular. It was also good to have many school children at the event. Cllr Mrs J Bettison thanked Cllr R Mossom for his great speech. She also gave thanks to the staff of STC and the RMAS.
- c) An update was received following a meeting of the Fireworks Working Group. All vendors and suppliers were discussed. There will be two additional food vendors at this years event following approaches by several vendors. Each offering was discussed and considered. The price for the vendors to have a pitch will remain at £200 for this years event.
Stage acts will be confirmed in the coming weeks. Hudson's Choice have confirmed their attendance.

DRAINAGE ISSUES (Agenda item 5)

The Committee were asked to consider two quotes for improving the drainage in the area that is flooding on Brookside Meadow next to the barrier. A comment was raised about CDM regulations, and it was suggested that an opinion on the project was sought from Andrew Hunter at BFC. Further to discussion it was proposed by Cllr Mrs J Bettison and seconded by Cllr D Birch and the following was

**RESOLVED
2992**

that the contract is awarded to contractor B, subject to the Borough opinion concerning the project should they choose to provide one.

ACTION: EO

HELP THE HUNTER (Agenda item 6)

A request was received for consideration from a member of the public wishing to set up scavenger hunts around the Memorial Park. They will be done via an online facility and the identification of QR codes that will be hidden around the park. At each point information will be given. It was



confirmed that the hunt includes a recommendation to visit the Café in the Park. **At this point Cllr P Panesar declared an interest and did not contribute to the discussion or take part in the vote.** The hunts will be renewed on a monthly basis and there will be a small fee for entering after the initial trial run. Further to discussion it was proposed by Cllr Mrs J Bettison and seconded by Cllr R Mossom and the following was

**RESOLVED
2993**

that permission is granted for a three month trial to commence with immediate effect. There will be no fee charged by STC for the trial period. The positions of the QR cards will be reviewed for suitability by the Head Groundsman who will meet with the organiser to arrange the installation of them.

ACTION:EO

MUSIC IN THE PARK (Agenda item 7)

The Committee were asked to consider a request from the Sandhurst Community Brass Band to provide another informal performance in the Memorial Park on 9th September 2023. Further to discussion it was proposed by Cllr Mrs J Bettison and seconded by Cllr Mrs H Hill and the following was

**RESOLVED
2994**

that permission is granted for an informal performance to take place on 9th September 2023.

ACTION: EO

OWLSMOOR PARK (Agenda item 8)

- a) The Committee were advised about recent vandalism that has occurred at Owlsmoor Park. This includes bins being ripped from their foundations and left in various places such as on swings, hedges or just thrown in the park. The contents have been strewn across the park. Play equipment has been vandalised severely, requiring new parts being ordered. Broken glass and block paving are regular occurrences in the park. Incidents are reported to TVP and Sandhurst Youth have also been advised and will include the site in their detached work.
- b) The Committee were advised of numerous complaints that have been received from residents concerning the maintenance and grass cutting at Owlsmoor Park. Currently the grounds team attend the park twice a week as a minimum to empty bins and inspect the area. Grass cutting is scheduled into their work plan and is usually done every 3-4 weeks in the growing season. This is subject to change according to workload and staff availability. Further to discussion it was proposed by Cllr Mrs J Bettison and seconded by Cllr D Birch and the following was

**RESOLVED
2995**

that the current schedules of the grounds team attending the park twice a week as a minimum to empty bins and inspect the area and grass cutting being scheduled into their work plan to be completed every 3-4 weeks in the growing season remain unchanged. The schedule is subject to change according to workload and staff availability. The Memorial Park will continue to take preference due to its size and facilities.

ACTION: EO



MEMORIAL PARK MAIN CAR PARK (Agenda item 9)

- a) An update was received concerning the recent vandalism in the main car park. Once again vehicles have been exiting by causing damage after the locking of the gate. The latest incident was at 11.15pm. One perpetrator was assisted by a fob holder who encouraged them to drive across the fields to exit via the barrier that they would open for them.
- b) The Committee were advised of a request from the Sports Club to allow them to keep the car park open until 11pm when the club is open and they would lock the gate. Further to discussion it was proposed by Cllr Mrs J Bettison and seconded by Cllr G Birch and the following was

**RESOLVED
2996**

that permission for the extended opening of the gate was declined. Unfortunately the time of closure must be consistent throughout the week. The Sports Club already hold a key and are able to let their members out after 10pm.

ACTION: EO

Cllr Mrs H Hill left the meeting – 8.34pm.

CRICKET SQUARE (Agenda item 10)

Cllr G Birch declared an interest as his son is a member of the cricket club. Cllr G Birch did not participate in the discussion or vote.

The Committee were advised that a request has been received from the Cricket Club for STC to consider the repairs to the Cricket Square that were recommended in a report dated 2019. The Cricket Club have reported comments from opposition teams about the unacceptable condition of the square. Further to discussion it was proposed by Cllr Mrs J Bettison and seconded by Cllr R Mossom and the following was

**RESOLVED
2997**

that a new up to date report is obtained by the Cricket Club and in the meantime the Grounds team will continue with their usual maintenance routine between seasons. Any recommendations that appear in the report will be considered by the Leisure Committee.

Action: EO

PRESS AND PUBLICATION FORWARD PLAN (Agenda item 12)

No further additions to the press and publicity plan.

COUNCILLORS REPORTS (Agenda item 13)

Cllr Mrs J Bettison reported that the Sandhurst Memorial Park has been awarded the Green Flag Award for the 20th year and thanked the staff for their hard work in helping to obtain this.

Cllr D Birch informed the Committee that he will be inviting the clubs to have input on the Neighbourhood Plan when the Working Group commences in September 2023.

SPORTS CLUB (Agenda item 14)

The Committee were informed that the AGM has just been held and there is a new committee member – Lisa Slater.

The finances have broken even and this has allowed the club to donate to local causes.



The toilets remain an issue although the club understand why the outside ones are only open when STC staff are on site.

SANDHURST RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION (Agenda item 15)

No representative present.

SPORTING CLUBS AND SOCIETIES (Agenda item 16)

B Penn from Sandhurst Tug of War informed the Committee that they are approaching the end of their season. They continue to have good numbers and the ladies team is growing. They are currently training three times a week.

The club will be competing in the World Championships which start at the end of August. They will compete as Sandhurst in the 'open' competition and will be representing England in the Men's 560 Kg 'closed' competition. The club are currently fundraising and applying for sponsorship and grants.

J Sheppard from the Sandhurst & District Gardening Club informed the Committee that the club recently held the Summer show. The show was good but growing had been hit with the weather conditions. The Deputy Mayor of Sandhurst attended to give prizes. He was thanked for this. J Sheppard also informed the Committee that the club had a party for their 60th Anniversary which was attended by James Sunderland MP. The Sandhurst Silver Band played music for the event and it was a successful afternoon. Thanks were given to Martina for her help with the preparation of the hall.

The club will now close down for August (including the trading hut). The Autumn show is on 9th September 2023 and J Sheppard expressed concerns about the parking due to the Community Brass Band concert taking place in the park on the same day.

A Bromage from Sandhurst Tennis Club informed the Committee that membership numbers have gone down and he is trying to rebuild club membership. An application has been sent in to join the Berkshire Tennis League. A recent family day event that the club put on was well attended.

C Faro from Sandhurst Cricket Club informed the Committee that the club continues to grow with around 200 members.

Some teams are performing very well and others not so much.

C Faro reported that the grant from the ECB has been received and should cover most of the costs for the repairs. Work has begun with the electrics and pipework being completed. This has made the bar area safe and available for use. The full refurb will be focused on at the end of the season.

Several Councillors attended a walk around at the Allotments prior to the meeting. It was reported that this was an interesting site visit and it was great to see the bees. The recent decision concerning the disabled parking at the gate of the allotments has been reported as working well. The association would like to consider having toilets at the site in their future plan.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING (Agenda item 17)

The date of the next meeting is confirmed as 21st September 2023.



SIGNED AND DATED CHAIRMAN

