

## 21th September 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 **9.26pm**.

### **PRESENT**

Chairman: Cllr Mrs J Bettison  
Councillors: Mrs J Alves De Sousa, P Bettison, D Birch, G Birch, Mrs S Davenport, M Forster, Dr S Forster, Mrs H Hill, Mrs P Limbu, Mrs M Mossom, R Mossom.

### **IN ATTENDANCE**

Executive Officer: Angela Carey  
Deputy Executive Officer: Martina O’Keeffe-Johnston  
Cllr Mrs L Quigg

Non-voting representatives:  
M Bird (3<sup>rd</sup> Sandhurst Scouts)  
A Bromage (Sandhurst Tennis Club)  
C Faro (Sandhurst Cricket Club)  
P Gunter (Sandhurst Allotments)  
L Penn (Sandhurst Sports Club)  
C Reid (Sandhurst Football Club)  
J Sheppard (Sandhurst Gardening Club)  
K Steinborn – Busse (SB Group)  
S Taylor - (3<sup>rd</sup> Sandhurst Scouts)

### **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE (Agenda item 1)**

Apologies for absence were received and accepted from Councillor:  
P Panesar (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)**

Cllr R Mossom declared an interest in agenda item 6 as he is a season ticket holder.  
Cllr R Mossom & Mrs M Mossom declared an interest in agenda item 8 as they are allotment holders.

### **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 3039**

that the minutes of the Leisure Committee meeting held on 20th July 2023 (pages 1432-1436) be received as a true and correct record and that they be confirmed and signed by the Chairman (Unanimous).

**ACTION: EO**



#### **LARGE EVENTS (Agenda item 4)**

- a) An update on the Summer of Fun Event was received. The event was a huge success with in excess of 5000 people attending. The EO thanked the Councillors that helped on the day.
- b) An update was received on the Fireworks Event. The planning is complete and the suppliers are all in place.
- c) An update was received following a meeting of the Freedom March Working Group. The majority of the entertainment acts and contracted suppliers have carried their services forward to the new date. The community stalls that previously committed will be contacted and new stalls will be sought by the Councillors on the working group. A separate meeting will be held with RMAS and the traffic management partners.
- d) The Large Events Policy was received by the Committee for review. The updated policy now includes events held at the SB Stadium Bottom Meadow as these were previously not mentioned on the policy. Further to discussion it was proposed by Cllr Mrs J Bettison and seconded by Cllr G Birch and the following was

**RESOLVED  
3040**

that the Large Events Policy is approved and adopted.

**ACTION: EO**

#### **DRAINAGE ISSUES (Agenda item 5)**

The Committee received an update on resolution 2992. It was confirmed that the relevant advice had been sought from BFC and the Environment Agency and that no further action was needed prior to the work being undertaken. It was also confirmed that a CDM is not necessary for a job of this size. This has now delayed the work commencing due to the contractor's commitments. It is now scheduled to begin in November 2023.

#### **USE OF THE SB STADIUM BOTTOM MEADOW FOR EXTERNAL MATCHES AND EVENTS (Agenda item 6)**

**Cllr R Mossom did not participate in the discussion or vote.**

- a) A request was received from the SB Group for permission to allow a charity celebrity football event to take place at Bottom Meadow. Further to discussion it was proposed by Cllr Mrs J Bettison and seconded by Cllr G Birch and the following was

**RESOLVED  
3041**

that permission is granted for the charity celebrity football event to be held on 28<sup>th</sup> January 2023. (Unanimous)

- b) A request was received from the SB Group to standardise how they seek permission from STC for external users of the stadium. The SB Group suggested pre-approved community use for local community and leagues that their teams play in, as well as seeking permission separately for charity games and league cup finals. Further to discussion it was proposed by Cllr Mrs J Bettison and seconded by Cllr D Birch and the following was

**RESOLVED  
3042**

that permission is granted for the SB Group to allow the teams from Sandhurst Football Club (formerly Boys & Girls) to use their facility without prior written consent from STC. Permission for all other requests for matches or charity events must be obtained prior to the event from STC. There will be a public forum held for members of the public and the



SB Group to share their views on the SB stadium. The date will be confirmed. (Unanimous)

**ACTION: EO**

**OUTSIDE TOILETS (Agenda item 7)**

The Committee were asked to consider the current situation with the outside toilets being closed when there are no staff on site at weekends. Some possible solutions were mentioned for consideration. These included an automated locking system on the doors and an external company being contracted to open, close and clean the toilets at the weekend. Further to discussion it was proposed by Cllr Mrs J Bettison and seconded by Cllr D Birch and the following was

**RESOLVED**

that an external company is contracted to open, close and clean the facilities in the absence of staff to operate this at weekends.

**ACTION: EO**

**ALLOTMENT TOILETS (Agenda item 8)**

**Cllrs R Mossom & Mrs M Mossom did not participate in the discussion or vote.**

The Committee received a presentation from the Chairman of the Sandhurst and District Allotment Association requesting permission for the installation of a permanent toilet facility at the allotments. Further to discussion it was proposed by Cllr Mrs J Bettison and seconded by Cllr Mrs H Hill and the following was

**RESOLVED  
3043**

that permission is approved in principle, subject to the SDAA obtaining planning permission from BFC, permission from other clubs that may be impacted and funding for the project. (Unanimous)

**ACTION: EO**

**SPEED OF VEHICLES USING BROOKSIDE MEADOW ACCESS ROAD (Agenda item 9)**

The Committee were asked to consider measures to reduce speeding on the Brookside access road following a complaint of a near miss from a member of the public. Further to discussion it was proposed by Cllr Mrs J Bettison and seconded by Cllr G Birch and the following was

**RESOLVED  
3044**

that a speed limit of 10 m.p.h is introduced and this is displayed by a sign. The policy for fob holders that enter the road will be amended to include information about adhering to the speed limit and that the fob will be removed if speeding occurs. STC will also investigate the costs associated with speed humps being installed. The quotes will be presented to the Leisure Committee at a later date. (Unanimous)

**ACTION: EO**

**CRY TESTING (Agenda item 10)**

The Committee received a presentation from the Chairman of the Sandhurst Football Club concerning the Cardiac Risk in the Young (CRY) event that they have hosted for many years. The charity is now moving to Woking and a request has been made by the football club for STC to provide £13,000 in financial support to allow the CRY testing to continue to take place in



Sandhurst. Further to discussion it was proposed by Cllr Mrs J Bettison and seconded by Cllr D Birch and the following was

**RESOLVED  
3045**

that the football club make an application to BFC for funding and that STC will support the application. Cllr R Mossom will assist with this in his capacity as a Borough Councillor. (Unanimous)

**ACTION: EO**

**VENDING MACHINE (Agenda item 11)**

The Committee were asked to consider a request received from a commercial company for permission to install vending towers on the Memorial Park. Further to discussion it was proposed by Cllr Mrs J Bettison and seconded by Cllr M Forster and the following was

**RESOLVED  
3046**

that permission is declined. (Unanimous)

**ACTION: EO**

**FESTIVE FUN RUN (Agenda item 12)**

The Committee were asked to consider a request from Sebastian's Action Trust to hold a Festive Fun Run at the Memorial Park. The preferred date is Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> December and permission is being sought to have a gazebo for registration and to play festive music. The run will follow the Park Run route. The charity are aware that they must provide public liability insurance and a risk assessment for the event. Further to discussion it was proposed by Cllr Mrs J Bettison and seconded by Cllr Dr S Forster and the following was

**RESOLVED  
3047**

that permission is approved for the fun run to take place on 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2023. (Unanimous)

**ACTION: EO**

**THE ALT PROV (Agenda item 13)**

Further to resolution 2991 an update was received. It was confirmed that after consideration the Alt Prov will not be taking their request forward.

**CRICKET SQUARE (Agenda item 14)**

The Committee were advised that further to resolution 2997 a new inspection has been undertaken and that the results were slightly improved from the 2019 report. The main areas for concern are the length of the grass on the outfield and the thatch that is growing on the square. Renovations are currently underway following the recommendations of the report and STC will consider koroing (specialist treatment) to further improve the area in the forward plan for the next few seasons.

**LEISURE COMMITTEE BUDGET PLANNING (Agenda item 15)**

The Leisure Committee were asked to contemplate any suggestions for new facilities or events and to bring the idea along with an approximate costing to the next meeting for consideration in the budget setting meeting for 2024/25.



### **PRESS AND PUBLICATION FORWARD PLAN (Agenda item 16)**

The Fireworks event will be added to the press and publicity plan.

### **COUNCILLORS REPORTS (Agenda item 17)**

Cllr R Mossom has attended the AGM for the Owlsmoor Community Hall. Things are progressing well.

Cllr M Forster informed the Committee that Cllr N Zahuruddin is now representing Sandhurst on the Planning Committee at BFC.

Cllr Mrs H Hill informed the Committee that she will be attending the AGM for the Blackwater Valley Trust on 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2023.

Cllr Mrs Davenport informed the Committee that she attended the SRA AGM and a speaker from the patient access group delivered a presentation.

### **SPORTS CLUB (Agenda item 18)**

L Penn informed the Committee that the club continues to do well. They have two new volunteers and some new members. They are building a relationship with the Sandhurst Joggers. The summer barbeque for members went very well.

Some members have complained about the car park being very busy on certain nights. There was also mention of the gate being locked early on a couple of occasions.

L Penn acknowledged an apology that she received from a Councillor following a comment about the Sports Club leaving the gate open previously.

The outside toilets being locked continue to present problems for the club. Members of the public have been extremely abusive to volunteers.

### **SANDHURST RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION (Agenda item 19)**

No representative present.

### **SPORTING CLUBS AND SOCIETIES (Agenda item 20)**

K Steinborn-Busse from the SB Group informed the Committee that the season is now well underway. The club are allowing anyone aged 18 and under free entry to the matches this season.

The artificial pitch has been fully installed and Sandhurst is the only town in the country to have a bioflex fifa standard five star pitch.

K Steinborn-Busse stated that he has not had any light complaints from Environmental health and that he has invited residents into the club to explore the issues.

C Reid from Sandhurst Football Club confirmed that the name of the club was changed at the recent AGM. There are now 56 teams and this includes a new under 7s girls team and a ladies team. There are currently 820 players and around 4000 active members.

A survey has recently been sent to members about the holistic approach that the club are encouraging amongst the players. Some great feedback was received concerning individuals with mental health and behavioural issues thriving in the football environment. There was also praise for helping with the transition from primary school to senior school.



The recent Lewis Marsh tournament was a great success and the grounds team did an amazing job with the pitches. C Reid thanked the team at STC for their continued great work.

A Bromage from Sandhurst Tennis Club informed the Committee that membership numbers are growing. The club have joined the Berkshire Winter leagues and are continuing to encourage new members. The club are currently not running children's sessions.

J Sheppard from the Sandhurst & District Gardening Club informed the Committee that the club recently held their autumn show. The show was really good. The Mayor of Sandhurst attended to give prizes. He was thanked for this.

J Sheppard also informed the Committee that the club had restructured and now have a show committee. This is working well.

The evening talks continue on a monthly basis and the afternoon talks that were trialled proved popular and will run in the winter months.

The club won a recent interclub gardening quiz.

C Faro from Sandhurst Cricket Club informed the Committee that the season is coming to an end. There will be indoor leagues throughout the winter months. The club continues to grow with 85 junior members.

Thanks were given to Richard Dobson who recently did a charity run a mile an hour fundraising event for funds to go towards the refurbishment of the clubhouse. £5000 was raised and it is hoped that the refurbishment will be finished before Christmas.

C Faro shared a story about the cricket club supporting a member recently who was extremely unwell and how the power of the club helped to support the individual whilst he was not fully fit by still encouraging him to take part.

M Bird from the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sandhurst Scouts introduced Simon Taylor who will deputise for Marc at Leisure Committee Meetings when he is unable to attend.

All sessions are now currently full.

There has been another leak of sewage at the Scout Hut and Thames Water have been contacted. M Bird asked who should be reporting this to Thames Water and agreed that as long as the Scouts and STC communicate to ensure that someone contacts them, it doesn't matter who this is.

P Gunter from the Sandhurst & District Allotment Association informed the Committee that the allotments are doing really well.

The waiting list for a plot is now over 2 years and the waiting list has been closed. This will be reviewed in six months.

The limited mobility plot is now fit for purpose and RE3 donates 60 bags of compost for the bays.

There is a leak in the container that is used for storage and a quote has been received to replace it for between £3000 - £5000. It has been decided that it is possible to fix it for around £500. The SDAA will apply for a grant from STC to assist the funding of the repairs.

P Gunter passed on his thanks to Nick and the grounds team for cutting the trees that were overhanging.



B Penn from Sandhurst Tug of War provided a written update. The team flew out to Switzerland on Tuesday 29th August in order to undertake some final weight loss prior to the tournament weigh-in on Wednesday morning. They then had until Saturday before their competition so they attended as spectators on the Thursday and Friday (which were for club competitions). Sandhurst then represented England in the men's 560 Kg weight category in which they came 10th. It has been a few years now since Sandhurst last attended a European or World competition and this was always going to be a big step up in standard. Hopefully the team have learnt some valuable lessons from this trip which they can take forward into next season and beyond. There is already talk of attending the championships in Germany next year and even the following year in Nottingham, England so a positive mood despite no medals!

The team intend to continue training (Sundays only) until Christmas and then to revert to three times a week after that in preparation for next season.

**DATE OF NEXT MEETING (Agenda item 21)**

The date of the next meeting is confirmed as 16<sup>th</sup> November 2023.

**SIGNED AND DATED CHAIRMAN**

