

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
LEISURE SERVICES COMMITTEE
HELD IN ARDEN HALL, CASTLE BROMWICH
ON WEDNESDAY, 6TH NOVEMBER 2013
AT 7.30 PM**

Those present:

- Chairman** Cllr Mrs. A Haywood
- Councillors** Cllr Mrs. P Allen Cllr I Hiley Cllr M Rashid
 Cllr E Hicks Cllr E Knibb Cllr J Whelan
- Guests:** Mr W. Brownhill, Bromford Lions Youth Football Club [Items 1-6 only]
- Officers:** Mrs. C Tibbles, Clerk to the Council/RFO
 Mrs.T. Kite, Hall Manager [Items 1-8 only]
- Public:** None.

1. Apologies.

The apologies from Cllr M Hayes and Cllr Miss J Ward were noted for the reasons given. Cllr R Amos was absent.

2. Declarations of personal or conflict of interests.

None declared.

3. Dispensations.

None requested.

4. Minutes of the previous Meeting.

ON THE PROPOSITION of Cllr Hiley, **SECONDED BY** Cllr Rashid, **IT WAS RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the Meeting held on Wednesday, 2nd October, 2013, having been circulated, be signed as a true and correct record of the Meeting.

5. Questions from the Public.

Under Standing Order 70, the Chairman prepared to adjourn the meeting to invite questions from members of the public but there were none in attendance.

6. Guests: Bromford Lions Youth Football Club.

At the invitation of the Chairman, Mr. Brownhill thanked the Committee for the opportunity to explain the draft tournament timetable devised by Bromford Lions and the space needed to accommodate the likely number of entrants. The new North Solihull Cup would be sponsored by TC Cars and potentially involve 2 Saturdays and 4/5 Sundays in June/July, playing on 4 temporary pitches. Ideas were discussed and questions clarified for members. **ON THE PROPOSITION** of the Chairman, **SECONDED** by Cllr Mrs. Allen, **IT WAS UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED** that following the previous support of the Committee for this initiative, to delegate the detailed arrangements to the Clerk and Park Wardens to plan and execute the Tournament with Bromford Lions. The Clerk undertook to meet jointly with Bromford Lions and other hirers in January and agree provisional dates. Also to prepare for the next Council Chairman to be available to present the trophies, as Cllr Whelan had enjoyed doing at the first tournament. Matters to be finalized would be the cost and arrangement for pitch marking, pitch hire fee to be charged by the Council, seasonal reparation of pitches by the contractor and accommodation of visitors/parking, in conjunction with any other hire events in Arden Hall and the pavilion/park.

7. Manager's Report and Hire issues.

Members noted the Hall Manager's report and the new regular weekly booking for the Pavilion. Repairs had been completed to the CCTV system as a new camera had

ACTION

Clerk
Date tbc
01/14

become 'waterlogged' due to poor installation. Staff vacancies were being re-advertised in the hopes of a wider response. Views of hirers and members on the lighting improvements were discussed and it was confirmed that, as in the past, any hirer who required additional lights or sound equipment were allowed to make their own arrangements with specialists. The Council had completed the necessary safety works and fulfilled what was outlined to hirers and been committed to. Members considered the cancellation letter from a hirer and the background to this booking, which was noted. The Clerk was asked to acknowledge the letter and confirm the council arrangements for stage lighting provision.

ACTION

Clerk
asap

8. Bar Stock Report.

The report and trading analysis was noted and small loss on one function noted due to extremely low sales.

9. Hob Farm Consultation.

Members were very pleased with the number and thoughtfulness of the responses received to the consultation. Following discussion, **ON THE PROPOSITION** of Cllr Hiley, **SECONDED** by Cllr Hicks, **IT WAS UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED** that the replies be analysed and popular suggestions put in order so that members could look at the 'Top 5' suggestions at a future meeting and work out what, if anything, would need to be looked at in more detail. A notice of thanks would be put on Hob Farm entrance and sent to the Gazette. Cllr Knibb, Cllr Hicks, Cllr Rashid, Cllr Whelan undertook to carry out the initial review of the summary, and would extend an invitation to Cllr Hayes and one additional member from the Finance and General Purposes Committee to join with them. The Leisure Services Committee could consider whether to form a working party with local residents at a future date.

Asst.Clerk
27/11

Asst.Clerk
18/11

tba

10. Community Café in the Park.

At the request of the Clerk, **IT WAS AGREED** the sub-Committee should meet on Wednesday, 4th December at 6.30 pm to draft terms of reference for approval by the Leisure Services Committee. Members would be Cllr Mrs. Allen, Cllr Knibb, Cllr Miss Ward, Cllr Whelan and two additional members invited from the Finance and General Purposes Committee.

Members
4/12

11. Public Toilet Provision in the Park.

The Clerk reported that following attendance at the SLCC National conference, she had arranged a provisional site meeting to commence discussions for a new toilet installation in the park. A potential saving of £40,000 may be possible if members considered the potential of a refurbished unit, although substantial expenditure was still required. Further details would be reported to members in due course.

Clerk
18/11

12. Playground Inspection Report.

Members received the report and **IT WAS AGREED** that staff would assess the repairs to be actioned themselves and which were to be undertaken by the contractor. Members noted the assessments included helpful photographs and the recommendations received were all low/medium risk.

Open Spaces
Supervisor
asap

13. Residents' Concerns.

Members discussed the information previously circulated. Members reported a huge advertising hoarding at a house in the Bradford ward having building work done and undertook to pass details of location to the Clerk for notification to the Borough Council.

Clerk
asap

14. Report of the Footloose Sub-Committee.

Members received the latest report and following discussion, **IT WAS AGREED** that in the absence of any costs being known and no budget provision for further works, the last recommendation for surface signage by Ennis Prismo be dealt with by the Leisure Services Committee, that Cllr Amos be asked to report on possible signage sponsorship and whether Stage 2 of the project may be actioned in October 2014.

RA
asap

Thanks were formally expressed by the Chairman to all of the members of the Sub-Committee for the sterling work they had undertaken to conclude the project and members **AGREED** that no further meetings were necessary. A member reported that one local publication had inadvertently referred to the installation as 'play' equipment which was incorrect.

15. Working Party Reports.

None.

16. Clerk's Report/Open Spaces Report.

The Clerk reported that a quote had been received for £1550 from the council's contractor for the triennial tree inspection, which she would be accepting on condition that the report and information was also supplied digitally to the council. Members requested specific advice on tree planting at the village green, re-location of the saplings by the tennis courts and the Clerk was asked to verify when Solihull MBC would transplant the saplings they had agreed to use at the new linear nature reserve. Members noted that a new electric meter had been installed in the pavilion, several new padlocks were needed, tree work had been completed the previous day by Arden Hall and the Garden of Rest which were a big improvement, a new intercom installed and working in the pavilion generating appreciation by customers, a roof leak at the pavilion had occurred as cowlings had been vandalized and now replaced, a major replacement of all immersion heaters and a new drain valve installed to isolate the tanks in future had proved to be expensive but hot showers were now available again in the dressing rooms. A Warden had cleaned clubroom panels to remove foot marks, a dog bin had been vandalized at Bradford Gardens and although straightened out initially may need replacing in future. The Clerk had taken responsibility for opening the two parks on several mornings in the absence of staff on sick leave/holiday. The Open Spaces Supervisor had left for a new job and the timetable for interviews had been delayed, with Park Warden staffing currently being under review. An incident had been noted with a sports coach but been concluded. The Clerk's application for a new boiler system for Arden Hall had not been successful in the Baxi Commercial Community Challenge competition, as reported at the last council meeting, although it may be possible to enter again in 2014.