

**GREAT CORNARD PARISH COUNCIL**

Minutes of the Meeting of the **ART, SPORT & LEISURE COMMITTEE**

held in The Stevenson Centre at 7.19pm on Monday 19th December 2022

**Present:** Councillors Mrs T E A Welsh **Chair**

Mrs C J Baker Mrs M Bark

A C Bavington T J Keane

S M Sheridan Mrs J Wilson

C G Wright

Council Manager Mrs N Tamlyn

Council Administrator Miss E Skuce

**1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from Councillors M D Newman and D Young.

**2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATIONS**

Councillor Bavington declared a non-pecuniary interest in any matter relating to Thomas Gainsborough School as he volunteers at the school and a family member is employed by the Trust.

Councillor Mrs Welsh declared a non-pecuniary interest in Agenda Item 8 as a family member plays for Sudbury RFC.

Councillor Wright declared a non-pecuniary interest in Agenda Item 8 as a family member plays for Sudbury RFC.

**3. DECLARATIONS OF GIFTS AND HOSPITALITY**

**NONE.**

**4. ITEMS BROUGHT FORWARD – FOR NOTING**

Members reviewed and **NOTED** the Items Brought Forward List.

**5. CORRESPONDENCE**

**a) Cornard United: Repairs to the Clubhouse**

Members reviewed correspondence from Cornard United which detailed repairs that were needed to the roof valleys and windows at the Clubhouse. Whilst the Club have provided one quotation, Members **AGREED** for the Council Manager to obtain two further quotations for the works required before a decision can be made in relation to the repairs.

**6. TO CONSIDER AN APPLICATION TO USE THE COUNTRY PARK: FOREST BATHING WALK**

Members reviewed an application received from Adaptable by Design, to use the Country Park for a Forest Bathing Walk, part of the Suffolk Walking Festival, on Sunday 21st and Saturday 27th May 2023. The Council Manager confirmed that Sudbury Common Lands Charity had been consulted on the application and had raised no concerns.

Members had no objections to the application and **AGREED** to grant permission to Adaptable by Design to use the Country Park on the dates and for the purposes set out in their application.

**7. TO CONSIDER AN INCREASE IN THE ANNUAL ALLOTMENT RENTAL CHARGE**

Members reviewed Report No. F12 **(see Appendix A)** in relation to a proposed £3 increase in the Allotment rental charge from £31 to £34 in January 2024. The proposed percentage increase was less than the current rate of inflation and would assist the Council with covering rising maintenance costs and the annual skip hire charge.

Members agreed to **RECOMMEND** to Full Council that it agrees the increase in the Allotment rental charge to £34 from January 2024.

**8. TO REVIEW A RISK ASSESSMENT AND MANAGEMENT AGREEMENT FOR PUBLIC OPEN SPACE ON THE STOUR CROFT DEVELOPMENT**

Members reviewed a copy of the Risk Assessment and Management Agreement upon which both Sudbury Rugby Club and Babergh District Council had sought the Parish Council’s views regarding the Club’s use of the public open space on the Stour Croft development. Babergh District Council are satisfied with the Risk Assessment and it addresses the Parish Council’s safety concerns over the close proximity of the ‘third pitch’ to the children’s play area on the development.

A Member stated that Clause 9 in the Management Agreement was incorrect as the Club should seek permission from the land owner, in this case Babergh District Council, before they contact the Planning Authority if additional lighting sources for the pitch are needed. Members **AGREED** to accept both documents in their entirety and for the Council Manager to contact the District Council with regards to changing the wording of Clause 9 in the Management Agreement.

**Meeting closed at 7:28pm**

**APPENDIX A**

**Report No: F12**

**Proposed Increase in Allotment Tenancy Fee**

Members will be aware that any increase to the Allotment Fees has to be notified 12 months in advance.

In January 2020, the Council agreed to increase the fee from £26 to £30 from January 2021 and to revert back to the Council’s Fees Policy.

No rise was applicable in January 2022, but Tenants were advised that the fee would rise by £1 in January 2023 to £31.

As inflation is now 11.1%, it is proposed that the fee increases from £31 to £34 from January 2024.

This will assist the Council with covering rising maintenance costs and the cost of the annual skip hire charge.