

**GREAT CORNARD PARISH COUNCIL**

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

held in The Stevenson Centre at 7:39pm on Monday 24th July 2023

**Present:** Councillors Cllr David Young **Chair**

 Cllr Tony Bavington Cllr Tim Hurst Cllr Melanie Keane Cllr Tom Keane Cllr Jane Wakeman Cllr Judith Wilson

 Cllr Colin Wright

Council Manager Mrs N Tamlyn

Council Administrator Miss E Skuce

1. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from Cllrs Sharon Bowman and Kevin Graham.

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

**NONE.**

**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) Local Resident: Horses in Country Park**

Members reviewed correspondence from a local resident which raises concerns for public safety over what they state is an increased number of horses being ridden through the Country Park, sometimes at a canter or gallop. The resident believes that the Country Park should be for the use of all, including horse riders, but that horses should be restricted to a walking pace whilst they are there.

Members agreed that whilst they do not have any objections to horses being in the Country Park, the safety of all users needs to be considered and agreed that horses should be restricted to a ‘walking pace’ whilst they are in the park.

It was **AGREED** for the existing signage, which refers to dogs in the Country Park, be adapted to include the appropriate use of horses in the park. Wording should be sympathetic to all users. It was also **AGREED** for the Council Manager to investigate appropriate amendments to the wording of the existing signage, together with costs, and report back at a future meeting.

**6. TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON THE COUNCIL’S PLANNING APPLICATION FOR THE RECREATION GROUND PLAY AREA IMPROVEMENTS**

Members reviewed the Planning Permission recently received from Babergh District Council, which grants permission for the Parish Council to install new and replacement play and exercise equipment on the Recreation Ground and in the enclosed play area. The only condition contained within the permission was that no external illuminations should be included on any of the equipment.

The Council Manager stated that Section 106 monies had also been secured from Babergh District Council and the sum of £57,621.71 was to be provided towards the project. This, together with the grant of planning permission, meant that the Parish Council can now place the order for the project with Wicksteed Leisure. **NOTED.**

**7. TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON THE TRAVELLER INCURSION ON THE RECREATION GROUND**

The Council Manager updated Members on the events of last week when a traveller community gained illegal access on to the Recreation Ground on Monday 17th July. Members **NOTED** that the appropriate meetings and assessments had taken place and that Bailiffs were instructed to serve an Eviction Notice on the community. This had taken place on Thursday morning and the travellers had left the Recreation Ground by just after 6pm on Thursday 20th July.

Members agreed that the security would need to be improved on all Council owned land. Cllr Bavington stated that he would like to add this matter to the Policy and Resources Agenda due to be considered later in the evening, as an emergency item. **AGREED.**

The Council Manager had prepared a draft letter to the Police and Crime Commissioner, Tim Passmore, on behalf of the Parish Council which raises concerns over the lack of Police support with the travellers. It was **AGREED** that this letter would be discussed at the Policy and Resources meeting later in the evening.

**Meeting closed at 8:11pm**