

HUNTINGDON TOWN COUNCIL
LEISURE AND COMMUNITY SERVICES
COMMITTEE

A meeting of the Leisure & Community Services Committee was held at the Medway Centre, Medway Road, Huntingdon, on Thursday 10th November 2011.

Present: Councillors A Beevor; A Blackwell; A Cole; S Hassell; W Hensley; P Kadewere; A J Mackender-Lawrence; C Mackender-Lawrence; S Mulcahy; N Pauley; and T Sanderson.

In attendance: Lydia Eldridge, Artistic Director, Dennis Smith, Parks Manager and District Councillor M Shellens.

Absent: Councillors A Bish & R Subhan.

46. **ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN**

It was proposed, seconded and

RESOLVED to elect Councillor Pauley as Chairman to the Committee for this meeting.

47. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Akthar, Ellington, Forster, Hyams, Sarabia & Skerry, from Youth Councillor Harrold, Mr Peter Jackson and Shilpa Desai-Sakaldip, Medway Centre Manager.

48. **PUBLIC ADDRESS/ADDRESS BY COUNCILLORS TO COMMITTEE**

Councillors having indicated that they wished to address the meeting, the Chairman proposed that the meeting adjourn and it was

RESOLVED so to do

Councillor Kadewere, in reference to item 6 on the agenda, mentioned that local groups CPS and Huntingdon Neighbourhood Panel were seeking to increase youth involvement and suggested that members from Huntingdon Youth Town Council might be interested.

Councillor MacKender Lawrence thanked the Council for its support of the fireworks display, organised by OCAG, which had been both well attended and well organised and much appreciated by the local community.

Councillor Pauley expressed his pleasure that the Animal Rights March taking place the previous weekend had gone off peacefully and that the Riverside Park Toilets opening had meant that the public conveniences were available to visitors taking part. It was therefore proposed, seconded and

RESOLVED to reconvene.

49. **DECLARATION OF INTERESTS**

There were none declared.

50. **MINUTES**

Copies of the minutes of the Leisure & Community Services Committee held on 15th September 2011 (M4) had been circulated following their informal approval by the Chairman.

It was proposed, seconded and

RESOLVED that the minutes were a correct record and they were duly signed by the Chairman.

51. **RECOMMENDATIONS OF SUB COMMITTEES**

Members had before them copies of the following minutes, which had been circulated in advance of the meeting, following their informal approval by the respective Chairmen:

Newsletter Sub Committee meetings held on 14th September, 13th & 26th October 2011 (M5,6 & 7); and

Leisure Development Working Party meeting held on 27th October 2011 (M2).

For each of the minutes it was proposed, seconded and

RESOLVED that the minutes be received, approved and the recommendations therein adopted by the Council.

52. **HUNTINGDON YOUTH TOWN COUNCIL**

Copies of the minutes of the Youth Town Council meeting held on 5th October 2011 (M9) had been circulated in advance of the meeting and there being no Youth Councillors in attendance, it was

RESOLVED to note the minutes with thanks.

53. **MEDWAY COMMUNITY CENTRE**

Members had before them a report of the Centre Manager. Members heard that that a representative of the Medway User Group would be contacting the Town Clerk in respect of plans to fund 50% of the cost of new curtains at the Centre and that a fundraising group had been established, which was organising a Craft Fair to take place at the Centre at the end of March. It was therefore

RESOLVED to note this and the report with thanks.

54. **ARTISTIC PROGRAMME AT THE COMMEMORATION HALL**

A report before Members gave details of activity relating to the Artistic Programme for the first half of the year, in terms of shows organised, cost of performances, audience numbers and income from ticket sales.

A Member suggested that the return on expenditure was poor and there was a discussion about difficulties for the arts during times of economic decline, a national trend of subsidisation of the arts which was not confined to Huntingdon and a need for such support to provide light relief in difficult financial times. Reference was made to income and expenditure reports presented for budgeting purposes under item 12 of the agenda, which showed predicted results for 2011-12, together with proposals for 2012-13.

A Member proposed that the value of the programme should be considered further by the Council and it was

RESOLVED so to do.

55. **PARKS MANAGER**

A written report before Members gave details of current activities relating to services which were the responsibility of the Parks Manager. Questions were invited.

On behalf of Moor in Bloom, Mrs Watkin Tavener asked whether anything was planned for the flower bed at the Medway Centre. Members heard that this had been grassed over, owing to problems with vandalism.

It was suggested that the bed might be used to mark 2012 as Olympics year and that maintenance could be undertaken by the Moor in Bloom volunteers. The Parks Manager suggested that the bed would require raising for the best visual display. Mrs Watkin Tavener was advised to contact the Town Clerk's Office in connection with this.

A Member praised the work of the Grounds team and recommended that Members who had not yet taken a tour of the Council's facilities should do so. Members also reported both positive feedback from visitors to the Primrose Lane Cemetery, when attending a Civic Funeral there, as well as praise for the town's environment, in particular the displays at Bridge End and at Mill Common.

It was therefore

RESOLVED to note this with thanks.

56. **PLAY AREAS – INSURERS ANNUAL INSPECTION**

Members had before them a summary report of the findings of the Council's insurers, following annual inspection of the Council's play areas. Members heard that repairs would be carried out as far as possible using the Council's approved allocation of expenditure.

A Member asked why such a large number of maintenance issues were not being identified and rectified during weekly inspections. The Committee heard that a good number of the defects reported were considered minor and the need

for rectification subjective, though in the interest of good risk management, would be undertaken at the Insurer's Inspector's recommendation.

There was some discussion about the availability of local developer contributions as funding for play area repairs and in conclusion, it was

RESOLVED to note the report with thanks and to look forward to a further report that repairs had been carried out.

57. **SPENDING PLAN – KGV PLAY AREA SAPLEY**

Members had before them a draft spending plan prepared as application for Section 106 Funds, for improvements to the play area/recreational area at King George V Field, Sapley Road.

A Member referred to mention of "Huntingdonshire Town Council" in the draft, which required correction to Huntingdon Town Council. Another member advised that a basketball unit listed under equipment required omission and that there was only one goal post in the recreation area, not two as listed.

Subject to these revisions, it was proposed, seconded and

RESOLVED to approve and adopt the spending plan for application for funding to the Huntingdonshire District Council.

58. **ESTIMATES OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE 2012/13**

Members had before them draft financial estimates for services which were the responsibility of the Committee for the period 1st April 2012 – 31st March 2013.

Various comments were put. A Member suggested that predicted income under the Artistic Programme was too optimistic. Another highlighted the need for provision for £3600 for website re-development, as recommended by a Newsletter Sub Committee meeting held the evening before. In conclusion, it was proposed, seconded and

RESOLVED to recommend the proposals to the Finance Committee meeting of December, where further consideration to the Council's annual expenditure in 2012-13 would be given.

The Town Clerk reported that an offer was being made by the Huntingdonshire District Council for transfer of ownership of two play areas at the housing development between Sapley Road and the A141/Kings Ripton Road, a commuted sum for maintenance in the amount of around £30,000 for which was attached. It was proposed, seconded and

RESOLVED to appoint Councillors Kadewere and A Mackender-Lawrence to attend an initial site meeting of the Officers arranged to discuss the proposal.

59. **STUKELEY MEADOWS – GOAL POSTS**

The Town Clerk reported to Councillors that following discussion with the Officer of the District Council who had attended a site meeting with a Member to discuss the provision of goal posts near the play area at Devoke Close, Stukeley Meadows, drawings were awaited showing the agreed location for one goal post for football practice.

The Member involved told the Committee that the provision was to be for two goal posts and it was

RESOLVED to note this with thanks and to await further report.

60. **DATE & AGENDA OF THE NEXT MEETING**

2nd February 2012, at the Commemoration Hall, at 7.00pm.

CHAIRMAN