

**SOUTH WOODHAM FERRERS TOWN COUNCIL
LEISURE & COMMUNITY COMMITTEE**

MINUTES of a Meeting held at Champions Manor Hall on Wednesday 21st July
2021, at 7.30pm

Present

Councillor Crosbie (Chairman)
Councillor Humphrey (Vice-Chairman)

Councillor Bentley
Councillor Wilson

Councillor Lobar
Councillor Lake

Councillor Kelly
Councillor Thompson

In attendance: Town Clerk, Open Spaces Officer, Councillor O'Brien and 2 members of the public.

L198 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were **RECEIVED AND ACCEPTED** from Councillor Massey, John, Burman and Miller.

L199 Dispensation Considerations

No dispensation considerations requested.

L200 Declarations of Interest

No Declarations of Interest

L201 Confirmation of Minutes

Minutes of the meeting held on 19th May 2021 were **APPROVED** as a true record and will be signed by the Chairman.

Proposed: Councillor Thompson

Seconded: Councillor Kelly

Vote: Carried

L202 Public Questions

Two members of the public present. A member of the Rotary Club gave a verbal update on the Community Garden project and said the Rotary have been approached by Meadowcroft and he had spoken to RHS who were happy to help with the project. He mentioned the soil testing and access to the site and was asking what stage the Town Council were with the project as he said there was a public need for this in the community.

A verbal update was given from the Bowls Club that when it was mentioned that the bowling green needed replacing earlier in the year membership was then at 20 members so the club has increased media presence highlighting the benefits of bowling and promoting the club with social interaction, The Bowls Club had a successful open day with 35-40 people attending and as a result now have 54 members with 6/8 still interested in joining. recruitment has eased due to time constraints to train novice bowlers and after Town Council advice they are in the process of changing the status of the bowls green to CIC Community Interest Company status

and Committee has agreed but this is on hold until the Club know the green will be replaced. On a community side the Boys & Girls Brigade has played at the green and many local companies are arranging to play matches. The dementia group have one day a week where they play bowls on the green and they have a new member with dementia and this member is offered support. They are playing well within the district and leagues and enter a lot of competitions and for next year to continue in competitions the Bowls Club needs to confirm the green is suitable for visiting clubs. This year they have had great success in the leagues and the dedication and success of the club has South Woodham Ferrers name high in the Bowls County. Question asked is does the Town need the bowls green? The club feels it is important for all ages particularly the older people of the town with not many alternatives. As the Town expands with the new development and the mean age of people is increasing. If Committee decided the green does need to be replaced, then the Greens Keeper has asked to be involved as he has a lot of knowledge and experience on surfaces available.

L203 Gardening On Prescription

The Town Clerk updated the Committee that there had been two meetings to date to decide the location of the garden and so far Champions Manor Hall was the chosen location as there is water and toilet facilities which is requirement although as the location is gated key access arrangements would be required, Meadow Croft have been requested to visit the site to detail the garden requirements and how the management of the garden would work with regard to key access to the site. Councillor Bentley asked if Meadow Croft would assist with the soil-testing and this will be investigated. Councillor Bentley commented that no budget has been allocated for the project this year so the project would need to be costed and planned and be presented to the Committee. Town Clerk confirmed that Meadow Croft have the Funding for the project however they were looking for land to place the Community Garden.

Councillor Thompson commented that a meeting would be a good idea to discuss any further possible ideas for areas to be used. Councillor Lake commented that going forward a detailed and operational plan from Meadow Croft would help the Town Council move forward with the project. This is not a Town Council project.

One member of public left the meeting 7.50pm

L204 Bowls Club

Councillors discussed and agreed there was a need for a Bowls Green in town and recognised that the Bowls Club had shown commitment and determination in meeting all the Town Council requests. It was discussed that a price for artificial and grass surface will be investigated and funding options that would be available. The Bowls Club had no objection to this being a public Bowls Green but this would need to be controlled.

Proposal: Committee discussed and agreed that there is a need for a Bowls Green in the Town and Councillors support the Bowls Green replacement. The Town Council will advertise for

tenders on the Government Contract Finder website for artificial and grass surfaces and this will be discussed at the next meeting on 28th September 21 and to look for other possible funding opportunities.

Proposed: Councillor Bentley
Seconded: Councillor Humphrey
Vote: Carried all in favour

One member of public left the meeting at 8.40pm

L205 Budgetary position

The current budgetary position as of 30th June 2021 was noted as attached to the agenda.

L206 The Queens Platinum Jubilee Celebrations

The Town Council discussed the idea of events for the celebrations of the Queens jubilee weekend 2-5th June 2022. Councillor Humphrey updated the committee that the Village Hall will be arranging an event and the Town Council would be welcomed to join in the arrangements.

Proposal: The Town Council agreed to do an event/s and this will go to the Events Sub Committee for discussion and ideas and to report back to Leisure at the next meeting on the 28th September 2021.

Proposed: Councillor Thompson
Seconded: Councillor Humphrey
Vote: Carried

L207 Summer Events

Woodham in Bloom: Committee **NOTED** this event is receiving media coverage to residents.

Summer Event: Committee **NOTED** Fun at Champions Manor Hall events arranged for 2nd/9th/16th/23rd August 21. Asda will provide sweets and water thanks to Councillor Kelly.

L208 John Cox BMX Site

The Committee discussed the report attached to the Agenda and the Town Clerk gave a verbal report to update members on the current position of the area. Committee discussed the current condition of the area.

Proposal: At this current time Leisure Committee not to carry out any further investigations into the John Cox site being re-instated as a BMX track. Area of land to be made available to Development and Infrastructure Committee where all projects can be considered once future CIL funding is available.

Proposed: Councillor Thompson
Seconded: Councillor Humphrey
Vote: Carried

L209 Play Area Village Hall

Committee **NOTED** the annual Inspection Report attached to the Agenda.

L210 Report to Council

- Tenders for the replacement Bowling Green
- New Events Sub Committee for Queens Jubilee celebrations
- Summer Events

L211 Media Coverage

- Summer Events
- Events Sub Committee volunteers

L212 Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Leisure and Community Committee will be on 28th September 2021 7.30pm.

To resolve to exclude the press and public for the remainder of the meeting under the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act, 1960, as the following item contains confidential information.

L213 Crabbing Ramp

Update received from the Town Clerk, committee agree to proceed with researching the crabbing ramp at the riverside.

There being no further business to discuss, the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.29pm.

Signed.....
Chairman of the Meeting

Date: 28th September 2021