

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

MINUTES of a Meeting held via zoom on Tuesday 30th March 2021, at 8.00pm

Present

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

Councillor Bentley	Councillor O'Brien	Councillor John
Councillor Massey	Councillor Kelly	Councillor Burman
Councillor Thompson	Councillor Lobar	Councillor Miller

In attendance: Town Clerk and representative from Meadow-Croft Garden Centre

L164 Apologies for Absence

No apologies for absence received all members present

L165 Dispensation Considerations

No dispensation considerations requested.

L166 Declarations of Interest

Councillor Thompson declared a non-pecuniary interest on item L173, as Chairman of the South Woodham Ferrers United Football Club who are joint event holders.

L167 Confirmation of Minutes

Minutes of the meeting held on 16th February 2021 were **APPROVED** as a true record and will be signed by the Chairman once social distancing measures are lifted.

Proposed: Councillor Massey

Seconded: Councillor Kelly

Vote: Carried

L168 Public Questions

Two members of the public present. One member of the public asked for an update regarding BMX track and what the future plans are for the site.

L169 Budgetary position

The budgetary position as circulated was noted, members were advised that whilst the report is dated 30th March 2021 the end of year figure will differ as March invoices are still being received.

L170 Gardening on prescription / Community Gardening

Presentation received from Meadow-Croft garden centre detailing the benefits of gardening on mental health and as such garden centres were classed as essential retail during lockdown. Meadow-Croft offered to support the initiative with the supply of plants, tools and trainings but were seeking land for the initiative. Members discussed land locations but due

to the requirement of toilet and water facilities Champions Manor Hall was proposed as a possible location.

Proposal: Ascertain public demand for a Community Garden at Champions Manor Hall to be provided by the Town Council in conjunction with Meadow-Croft to support public wellbeing

Proposed: Councillor Massey

Seconded: Councillor Bentley

Vote: Carried

L171 Blue Cage

Councillor Crosbie, O'Brien and Town Clerk reported the site meeting at the village hall and the request for a roof to be provided on the goal area to prevent balls leaving the cage. Correspondence to date from MUGA suppliers has stated that they cannot provide the roof and an option could be for a fencing company to provide and fit a structure on the MUGA although they stated that a concern with this is whether the fencing would meet the requirements of BSEN1176. It was identified that the main concern was the ball entering the road and children cutting through the hedge to get the ball and being hit by a car, members discussed the possibility of a fence at the perimeter of the village hall similar to that at the playground.

Proposal: No further action to be carried out, Village Hall to be contacted stating that the fence should be extended to prevent the ball entering the road.

Proposed: Councillor O'Brien

Seconded: Councillor Humphrey

Vote: Carried

L172 Crabbing Platform at Riverside

Following recent events at the River, with a gate being erected at the yacht club to meet their insurance requirements this has resulted in residents no longer being able to access the water for crabbing / feeding swans. The Essex County Council slipway is currently in disrepair and Councillor Massey is liaising with the County Council regarding this although funding for this area would compete with road maintenance etc. Preliminary research from the Crouch Harbour Authority has stated that a platform for allowing boats into the water would not be encouraged due to unauthorised launching of boats although a crabbing platform could be considered.

Proposal: Officers and Councillor Humphrey to explore the possibility of a crabbing platform at the riverfront and liaise with authorities to investigate what permissions and restrictions would need to be made to deliver this project.

Proposed: Councillor Humphrey

Seconded: Councillor Massey

Vote: Carried

L173 Youth Club

Noted that a Youth Club Working Party meeting will be held in the near future once up to date guidance is received. Grant of £500 pledged from Essex County Council Voluntary Youth Service. Training courses are currently being offered to support volunteers at Youth Clubs.

L174 Events

- Woodham in Bloom: Committee agree to proceed with a South Woodham Ferrers in Bloom with possible categories of best basket / container, front garden and business.
- Summer Event: Councillor Humphrey, Crosbie and Thompson provided a verbal report detailing the provisional plans for the event.

Proposal: Budget request to be made to Policy and Resources for £4,000 with a detailed expenditure to be provided by Councillor Humphrey, Thompson and Crosbie to be circulated with the Policy and Resources agenda

Proposed: Councillor John

Seconded: Councillor Kelly

Vote: Carried

- Christmas Fayre: to note that bookings have been made for the Christmas Fayre 2021

L175 Proposed new Leisure / Sporting Facility located within the Masterplan Development

Town Clerk reported correspondence has been made with Paul Van Damme, members requested that whilst it is welcomed that the Football, rugby and cricket clubs are liaised with, communication should also be made with all outdoor sports to identify whether there are any other sporting needs within the Town which are not being met and perhaps could be allowed for within the outdoor sports provision in the existing and proposed development.

L176 BMX Track – John Cox

Noted that a site meeting has been held with BMX track users and a request made for a business plan to be brought to the March meeting, a business plan has not been prepared by the group and a request has been made on the BMX facebook page requesting that interested parties contact the Town Clerk. One member of the public has contacted the Town Clerk. Members stated that the area is used and the item is raised approximately every 5-7 years and that the development of the site should be researched further before a final decision is made.

Proposal: Town Clerk and Councillor Thompson to liaise with British Cycling to enquire whether a representative from the organisation could carry out a site visit and ascertain whether the site could be re-erected and whether any grant funding is available.

Proposed: Councillor Thompson

Seconded: Councillor John

Vote: Carried

L177 Easter Play in the Park

Noted that due to Covid restrictions only one Play in the Park session could be provided, this is fully booked.

L178 Report to Council

- Woodham in Bloom
- Gardening on prescription
- Youth Club

L179 Media Coverage

- Woodham in Bloom
- Gardening on prescription
- Outdoor Sports needs within the Town

L180 Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Leisure and Community Committee will be on 19th May 2021 8pm.

There being no further business to discuss, the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.42pm.

Signed.....
Chairman of the Meeting

Date: 19th May 2021