

**RUSTINGTON PARISH COUNCIL**

**LEISURE AND RECREATION COMMITTEE**

**MINUTES:** of the Meeting held on 5 March 2009

**PRESENT:** Councillors G Tyler (Chairman), T Field, M Jones, Mrs S Lines, D Rogers, R Steward and M Warrington

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**1/09            DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillor Steward declared a personal interest in Minute 3/09(d). He remained in the Meeting during consideration of this item and took part in the discussion thereon.

**2/09            MINUTES**

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 6 November 2008 were signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

**3/09            WOODLANDS CENTRE - EXTERNAL FACILITIES (RECREATION GROUND)**

**(a)            Donated Tree Planting Scheme**

The Clerk referred to Minute 22/08(a) and reported that the fifth and final phase of the Tree Planting Scheme on the Woodlands Recreation Ground took place on 9 February 2009, with 11 Crab Apple trees being planted at various locations on the field. She said that all of the donors had attended for the planting of the first tree.

She reminded the Committee that the Council had recently made an approach to the West Sussex County Council regarding the possibility of members of the local community being able to donate trees for inclusion in the annual planting programme for replacement trees on the public highway. She said that she was now awaiting the receipt of further information from the County Council in this regard.

The Committee was pleased to NOTE this information.

**(b)            Footpath/Car Park Lights - Possible Replacement/Improvements**

The Clerk referred to Minute 22/08(b) and said that she had previously circulated an Estimate received from Owen Electrical Limited for replacement galvanised boxes for the Footpath/Car Park Lights in the sum of £65.77 excluding VAT (per box). She said that the existing boxes, which were made of metal, had all rotted away and this was the main reason why the lights were tripping out on a regular basis. The replacement boxes were waterproof, plastic, switched fused spurs, which would be far more efficient. She said that the existing boxes should, in effect, only have been utilised for indoor use, but at the time that they were installed, they were probably the only option available.

Following a further discussion, the Committee RECOMMENDED that the Estimate received from Owen Electrical Limited for replacement galvanised boxes for each of the 14 lighting columns, in the sum of £65.77 excluding VAT (per box), be accepted.

**(c)            South and South East in Bloom**

The Clerk reported that the Woodlands Recreation Ground had again been entered into the 'Best Public Park' Category in the 2009 South and South East in Bloom Competition. She reminded the Committee that the Recreation Ground had been presented with a Gold Award in the 2008 Competition, and it was hoped that this success could be repeated.

The Committee was pleased to NOTE this information.

*(Prior to consideration of the following item Councillor Steward declared a personal interest, as a Member of the District Council's Grants Panel)*

**(d) Arun District Council - Village Enhancement Grant**

The Clerk reported that the Council's recent application for a Village Enhancement Grant towards the purchase of an item of disabled play equipment for the Play Area had been successful. She said that, unfortunately, this would only cover one-third of the total cost, but she hoped to receive notification in the very near future regarding the proposed Section 106 funding for play equipment at the Woodlands Recreation Ground Play Area which, would enable the Council to purchase this specialist play equipment.

Councillor Steward reported that the decision to award a grant to the Council had been unanimous.

The Committee was pleased to NOTE this information.

**4/09 WOODLANDS CENTRE - INTERNAL**

**(a) Current Lettings**

The Clerk gave a progress report on the current lettings against budget and said that the income was now running slightly above the recently revised 2008/2009 budgeted figure of £44,500.00. She said that the current income was £42,572.38, which represented 95.7% of the annual estimated figure. She said that it was anticipated that the income would be in excess of the targeted figure at the end of the current financial year.

The Committee was pleased to NOTE this information.

**(b) Digital Projector**

The Committee considered a letter received from Arun Decorative and Fine Arts Society (ADFAS), suggesting the possible purchase of a Digital Projector for Lectures and Presentations at The Woodlands Centre.

Following a brief discussion, the Committee RECOMMENDED that, in the first instance, the Clerk should obtain three Estimates for suitable equipment, for consideration by the Full Council.

**(c) Village Memorial Hall - Redecoration**

The Clerk reported that the Village Memorial Hall was now in need of some redecoration works, in order to maintain a good standard. She said that, in accordance with this, she would be making arrangements for the required works to be undertaken during the next financial year.

The Committee NOTED this information.

**5/09 WOODLAND PARK SPORTSFIELD**

**(a) Risk Assessment - Rabbits and Moles**

The Clerk referred to Minute 24/08(a) and reported that the service provided by Absolute Pest Control was continuing on a quarterly basis in respect of the Sportsfield. She said that the current situation in respect of the pest control management of rabbits and moles at the Sportsfield was most satisfactory with only minimal rabbit or mole activity being evidenced.

The Committee NOTED this information.

**(b) Siting of Storage Containers**

The Clerk advised the Committee that each of the two Youth Football Clubs using the Sportsfield, had a secure storage container sited behind the Pavilion. She said that following representations received from the Angmering Parish Council, both Clubs had expressed their desire to apply for retrospective planning permission, to ensure that the containers could remain on the Sportsfield for the foreseeable future.

She said that in accordance with the Lease with the County Council, she had requested consent for the Club's to progress the planning application in this regard. She confirmed that she had now received the County Council's consent, subject to the following conditions:-

1. Planning permission must be secured for the siting of the containers, together with any other relevant statutory consents that may be required. The County Council will require to see a copy of the permission in due course or a letter from Arun District Council confirming that planning permission is not required
2. The Parish Council will be required to ensure that any conditions of the planning permission are complied with
3. The County Council's consent as Landlord will cease upon the expiry of the planning permission or upon the expiry of the lease if earlier
4. The site is to be reinstated and made good upon the removal of the containers
5. The Parish Council is to indemnify the County Council against all costs, claims or demands for loss or injury arising from the siting of the containers on the site and shall keep public liability insurance cover of an appropriate level for this purpose.

She advised the Committee that the County Council had also requested the Council to confirm, by signing and returning a copy of the letter received, its acceptance of the aforementioned terms and conditions.

Following a brief discussion, the Committee RECOMMENDED that the Council should accept the County Council's terms and conditions in respect of the siting of the two storage containers at the Sportsfield, if and when planning permission had been granted by the local Planning Authority.

**(c) Car Parking Problems - Grass Verge on Public Highway**

The Chairman reported on a Meeting that he had attended, with the Clerk, General and Grounds Maintenance Person, Senior Administrative Officer, and representatives from the Angmering Parish Council, Rustington Otters Football Club and Sussex Police, regarding the ongoing problems caused by vehicles parking on the grass verges outside the Sportsfield entrance on Saturdays and Sundays.

He said that following a lengthy discussion, it had been agreed that the Police and the Rustington Otters Football Club should, in the first instance, work together in an effort to deter motorists from parking on the grass verges, by way of a Police letter being placed on the windscreens of offending vehicles, asking them to use alternative car parking facilities, and by placing Police cones along the grass verges in question.

He said that in the long term, it was hoped that the County Council could be persuaded to install bollards on the grass verges in question, but he understood that this would be part of a much wider representation which would be made to the County Council by the Angmering Parish Council and the Police.

The Committee NOTED this information.

**(d) Litter and Debris - Northern Boundary of Sportsfield**

The Clerk advised the Committee of recent problems that had come to light regarding the litter and debris being deposited in the vicinity of the footbridge on the northern boundary of the Sportsfield. She said that she

