

HOUGHTON REGIS TOWN COUNCIL
Environment & Leisure Committee
24th February 2020 at 7.00pm

Present: Councillors: T McMahon Chairman
D Abbott
D Dixon-Wilkinson
Y Farrell
S Goodchild
A Slough
K Wattingham Substitute

Officers: Clare Evans Town Clerk
Tony Luff Head of Grounds Operations
Louise Senior Head of Democratic Services

Public: 1

Apologies: Councillor: R Morgan

Also present: Councillor: J Carroll

11164 APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Cllr Morgan (Cllr Wattingham substituted).

11165 QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

A member of the public asked if the cost of the pitch hire was to be doubled.

It was advised that the pitch fees had been agreed for 2020/2021.

11166 SPECIFIC DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

11167 MINUTES

To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 18th November 2019.

Members requested an update on community defibrillators.

Members were advised that the costings were still being investigated and grant money was being sought as there was a shortfall in funds.

Resolved: To confirm the minutes of the Environment & Leisure Committee meeting held on 18th November 2019 and for these to be signed by the Chairman.

11168 INCOME & EXPENDITURE REPORT

Members received the income and expenditure report, highlighted were significant variances for Environment & Leisure Committee to date.

It was noted that the charge for water at the Village Green Pavilion was showing a large increase. Members were advised that the kitchen garden at Houghton Hall Park was using water from the pavilion and Houghton Regis Town Council had been given additional finding for this.

Resolved: To note the report and in particular the additional income to be received in 299-1075, Sale of Assets, and the planned expenditure of grounds safety equipment.

11169 ENVIRONMENT & LEISURE BUDGET FOR 2020/21

Members received the approved budget for 2020/21 for the Environment & Leisure Committee supported by the budget explanation. The following points were of note:

242-4015, Moore Crescent Pavilion, Gas

Reduced by £700. Member decision during budget setting. It was hoped that the remedial measures already taken would enable the council to fund this utility.

271-1084 Income from burial fees

Reduced by £7500. Member decision during budget setting due to uncertainties of take up within the Garden of Remembrance.

291-4008 Grounds training

Reduced by £1000. Member decision during budget setting. Details of training courses with reduced budget to be determined.

299-4862 Cap – Cemetery Provision

Reduced by £10000. Member decision during budget setting. Should additional Vaults be required the EMR would be utilised.

299-4871 Cap – Pavilion Renovations

Reduced by £25000. Member decision during budget setting not to make annual budget provision for Tithes Farm Pavilion renovation.

Members raised concerns over the cost of the gas and electricity at Moore Crescent Pavilion.

Members were advised that monitoring equipment had been installed to determine high energy usage and some remedial works carried out to assist with cost savings.

Members were advised that energy tariffs were reviewed at every renewal, and the best value supplier was sought.

Resolved: To note the report.

11170 VISION UPDATE

Members received a review of the initiatives under this committee.

Resolved: To note the report.

11171 HOUGHTON REGIS CEMTERY INFORMATION & REGULATIONS

Members considered and revised the information and regulations covering Houghton Regis Cemetery.

Members were advised that seven burial spaces remained in the cemetery. Funeral directors had been made aware of the availability and social media had been updated regularly for residents.

It was clarified that this committee would address issues relating to the current cemetery, the New Cemetery Sub-committee was to address issues relating to the new cemetery only.

An amendment was suggested to the Cemetery Information & Regulations to include a statute reference.

Resolved: To approve the Cemetery Information and Regulations subject to the agreed amendment.

11172 TITHE FARM 3G FEASIBILITY PROJECT: UPDATE

Members received updates on the work completed to date and appointed a bid consultant. Members agreed to delegate the authority to appoint an architect to the Chair of the Environment & Leisure Committee and the Town Clerk.

Resolved:

- 1. To note the work completed to date;**
- 2. To approve consultant 1 as the projects Bid Consultant**
- 3. To delegate authority to the Chair of the Environment & Leisure Committee and the Clerk to appoint a Project Architect.**

The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 7.41pm

Dated this 1st day of June 2020

Chairman