



# **PEACEHAVEN TOWN COUNCIL**

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**DRAFT Minutes of the meeting of the Leisure, Amenities & Environment Committee held in the Main Hall, Community House on Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> July 2021 at 7.30pm**

Present: Cllr L Symonds (Chair), Cllr I Sharkey, Cllr D Seabrook, Cllr R White, Cllr Duhigg, Cllr J Harris, Cllr C Gallagher, Cllr E Simmons, Cllr C Cheta.

Officers: Kevin Bray (Parks Officer), Victoria Onis (Admin Officer), Michelle Edser (SPO)

Public: 1 member of public

## **1 LA 569 CHAIR ANNOUNCEMENT**

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and made the following announcements: -

- Cllr Symonds noted that as Vice Chair she will be standing in for the Chair, Cllr Griffiths
- As this meeting has been set out at 2m distance each member & officer has the option to wear their masks. When speaking please stand and use the microphone.
- Health and Safety

## **2 LA 570 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

The member of public referred to item LA 580 of the agenda. The Oval is now very overgrown, blocking the paths and bramble at eye level. The Chair noted the comments, which will be discussed later in the Agenda.

## **3 LA 571 TO CONSIDER APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE & SUBSTITUTIONS**

Apologies were accepted from Cllr Griffiths and Cllr Hill. It was resolved that Cllr Duhigg would substitute for Cllr Hill.

Cllr Veck no apologies received.

## **4 LA 572 TO RECEIVE DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST FROM COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

Cllr Paul as an acquaintance of the member of public in attendance and as an employee of the Café at Centenary Park which will be discussed at item LA 580.

Cllr Symonds as being the author of the report 'Epinay Park' item LA585. Which was submitted before the request to stand in as Chair of this Committee.

**5 LA 573 TO APPROVE AND SIGN THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE LEISURE AND AMENITIES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 6<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2021**

It was resolved to accept the minutes as a true record.

**6 LA 574 TO NOTE AND REVIEW THE COMMITTEES BUDGETARY REPORT**

- Cllr Gallagher noted that the Finance Officer has explained that the figures for the big park are slightly out of proportion, repair and alteration money is expected back from CIL.
- The Parks Officer noted that the Water supplier has recently been changed and there has been some discrepancy for the water meter readings, it could be that we are due a refund. The outcome of this will be reported at the next meeting.

**7 LA 575 TO DISCUSS AND NOTE THE INTERNAL BUSINESS PLAN REPORT**

The Committee discussed the report at length. From discussion, it became clear that some of the Committee have unanswered questions with the process for developing and monitoring the Plan. To avoid further confusion, The Chair will be taking this item back to the SPO and The Town Clerk for clarification and update will be given at the next Committee Meeting.

**8 LA 576 PROJECT UPDATE**

This report was noted.

**9 LA 577 TO DISCUSS AND NOTE DOG FOULING COMPLAINTS**

Increasing number of complaints regarding dog faeces at Centenary Park. Sports area with lots of dog walkers.

Ideas for solutions were discussed: -

- Signs and education
- Ban dogs from park
- Introduce a licensing system for dogs, so only responsible owners can use park
- Employ an Enforcement officer. Potentially could pay for itself with fines.
- Warn Residents of the dangers of dog faeces to children, to be reported on social media and the E news.
- Get children involved and educate the children. Run a poster competition, where we can engage with children to create a "pick up a dog poo poster" which can then be printed and circulated around the Town.
- Investigate the creation of a video involving children of the local schools, expressing how they as children perceive dog waste in their parks. The video could also include responses from users of Peacehaven Football Club and Junior Park run, who use the sports pitches at Centenary Park.
- Propose to contact a local vet for information on the dangers of dog waste, which will be circulated to all schools and social media.

It was **Proposed** by Cllr Symonds and **Seconded** Cllr Duhigg for Officers to investigate all recommendations noted above.

**The SPO left the meeting**

## **10 LA 578 TO DISCUSS RECOMMENDATIONS SKATE PARK COMPLAINT**

Options were discussed

- No other skate parks are fenced off
- Fences open to vandalism
- Skate boarding is already a very risky activity and helmet/pads should be worn
- Only 1 complaint in since skate park opened.
- Fencing would mean using public money due to irresponsible dog owners
- Dogs have been known to knock cyclists off bikes, the responsibility is the dog owners.
- To include on the business plan and to review in the future

It was resolved to allow the Grounds team to continue to monitor the situation

Agreed by Majority

## **11 LA579 THE OVAL COMPLAINTS**

The Oval is the only wild park in the Town and has mature trees and grass areas. The grass meadow idea was implemented in order to have some wild areas in the north of the Town to encourage insects and Bees. There have been a number a number of complaints received regarding the smell of left dog faeces in the long grass and seeds in dogs paws.

- The Parks Officer reported that the grass is due to be cut in September, if another cut is requested now it will come at an extra cost to hire in a machine now and then again in September when growth has slowed down.
- Suggested a task and finish working party should be set up to look at the management of the Oval consisting of the councilors from the north ward. All areas need different management. Consultation with residents.

Cllr Seabrook **Proposed** and it was **Seconded** by Cllr Duhigg that the grass is cut in September, as scheduled.

## **12 LA580 TO DISCUSS RECOMMENDATIONS CAFÉ FORECOURT REPORT**

It was **Proposed** by Cllr Seabrook and **Seconded** by Cllr Harris to recommend using Hobart paving as they installed the rest of the paving as part of the big parks project. This will now go to P&F.

Agreed by Majority

### **13 LA581 TO UPDATE AND AGREE NEXT STEPS INCLUSIVITY AND ACCESSIBILITY REPORT**

The report was discussed at length.

- Need for inclusivity and access audits of all our facilities
- To improve accessibility and equipment options for the less abled within our community.
- To meet current legislative requirements.

It was proposed to agree in principle for a professional accessibility report on all PTC open spaces to take place and recommend to P&F to use CIL money for the cost, expected to be around £1500-2000

**Proposed** by Cllr Gallagher and **Seconded** by Cllr D Paul

Agreed by majority.

### **14 LA 582 PLAYGROUND ANNUAL REPORT**

The report was noted.

### **15 LA 583 GREEN SPACES REPORT**

The report was noted

### **16 LA 584 EPINAY PARK PLAYGROUND REPORT**

All 5 recommendations were discussed for the improvement to the access point from Cripps Avenue to Epinay Park.

#### **Summary of recommended actions**

1. To agree the need for a gated enclosure to the younger children's playing area to stop dogs entering.

**Proposed** Cllr I Sharkey **Seconded** Cllr D Paul

2. To hold a consultation with residents/users of the park on new equipment that they would like to see in the park area including outside gym equipment.

**Proposed** Cllr Sharkey **Seconded** Cllr Cheta

3. To liaise with access group with regard to disability equipment in the park

**Proposed** Cllr Sharkey **Seconded** Cllr Cheta

4. To install disabled friendly seating/benches

5. Officers to research into funding for new equipment and gym equipment if agreed.

**It was resolved that points 4 and 5 will come back to Committee when there is more information**

#### **17 LA 585 EPINAY PARK ENTRANCE REPORT**

The need for an improved entrance to Epina Park to provide better and safer access for residents including those with disabilities was discussed.

**It was agreed in principle that there is a need to improve the entrance to Epina Park and to wait for the accessibility reports.**

It was **Proposed** by Cllr Paul and **Seconded** by Cllr Duhigg

All in favour

#### **18 LA586 CYCLE RACK PLANTERS REPORT**

It was proposed to install the two cycle planters near the entrance on the grass area of Howard Park and fix to the ground. To also include plants that withstand dry soil conditions due to no water supply.

**Proposed** by Cllr Sharkey and **Seconded** by Cllr Gallagher

All in favour

#### **19 LA587 SDNP TREE FUND REPORT**

Cllr Seabrook pointed out that this funding did not include a maintenance contract as stated in the report as this item related to a different tree planting bid.

The report was noted.

#### **20 LA588 E10 FUEL REPORT**

It was **Proposed** by Cllr Seabrook and **Seconded** by Cllr Sharkey that this item is referred to The Climate Emergency Committee

All in Favour

#### **21 LA589 STAFF TRAINING UPDATE**

The report was noted.

#### **22 LA590 WORKS UPDATE**

The report was noted.

#### **23 TO CONFIRM DATE OF NEXT MEETING AS THE 7<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2021**

*There being no further business, the meeting closed at 21.20*

