

MENDIP DISTRICT COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of the Wells Recreation Ground Trust held on Monday, 12 December 2016 in the Committee Room, Mendip District Council, Shepton Mallet commencing at 6.00 pm.

PRESENT:

Mendip District Councillor John North (Chair) – Ward Member
Mendip District Councillor Roy Mackenzie – Ward Member
Mendip District Councillor John Osman – Ward Member
Mendip District Councillor John Parham – Portfolio Holder for Finance, Governance and Corporate Services
Wells City Councillor Tony Robbins
Mendip District Councillor Harvey Siggs, Leader of Mendip District Council
Mendip District Councillor Danny Unwin – Ward Member
Wells City Councillor Celia Wride

OFFICERS

PRESENT: David Clark - Group Manager of Law and Governance
Claire Dicken - Committee Officer
Jane Sharp - Shape Mendip Project and Improvement Officer
Sara Skirton - Group Manager, Corporate Services

Agenda Item Number	Subject	Actioned by
1	<p>Chair's Announcements</p> <p>The Chair requested that mobile phones be turned to silent and explained the evacuation procedures.</p> <p>The Chair gave apologies that the meeting was not being held in Wells but it had been decided to hold this one off meeting at short notice in Shepton Mallet because all of the Trustees would be available.</p>	
	<p>The order of the business was altered as follows:</p>	
7	<p>Urgent Business</p> <p>The Chair agreed to take the following item as urgent business:</p> <p>Wells Recreation Ground Trust Committee Membership</p> <p>The Trust welcomed and confirmed the Wells City Councillors Celia Wride and Tony Robbins as Trustees with full voting rights.</p> <p>RESOLVED</p> <p>To confirm Wells City Councillors Celia Wride and Tony Robbins as Trustees with full voting rights.</p>	

	To note that appropriate changes would be made to the constitution.	
2	<p>Apologies for Absence</p> <p>Councillor Nigel Taylor (Vice Chair) – Portfolio Holder for Neighbourhood and Community Health Services</p>	
3	<p>Declarations of Interest</p> <p>None.</p>	
4	<p>Public Participation</p> <p>a. Item on the Agenda – None b. Items not the Agenda – None</p>	
5	<p>Previous Minutes</p> <p>The previous minutes of 1 August 2016 were agreed.</p> <p>The Group Manager, Corporate Support gave an update with regard to the Governance Implications of the Christina Dixon Consulting Report. For clarity the Council would remain sole trustee of the Recreation Ground until further notice.</p>	Claire Dicken
6	<p>Recreation Ground Trust Play Area – Update on Fire</p> <p>The Group Manager, Corporate Support introduced a report which stated that on the evening of Saturday, 5 November 2016, a fire severely damaged part of the new play area on the Wells Recreation Ground. Fire and Police services had attended. The incident was being treated as suspected arson and investigations were on-going.</p> <p>The Council's insurance claim had been approved and the instruction received to proceed with the replacement.</p> <p>The report stated the proposal was to remove the damaged structure and surfacing, retain the security fencing in the short-term and then install a like-for-like replacement of the damaged structure and surfacing.</p> <p>With regard to further enhancements, Trustees had highlighted that they would like make the play area even better than it had been before. They had welcomed suggestions from the community about possible improvements including, re-surfacing, extra security and additional seating.</p> <p>During the discussion that followed Members agreed that a like-for-like replacement would be the most straight forward solution. Any other option for different equipment would take much longer to install.</p>	Jane Sharp

	<p>It was hoped that the suppliers would be able to provide and install the replacement equipment by Spring 2017.</p> <p>In response to queries the Officers confirmed that detailed options for possible enhancements would be available early in the new year.</p> <p>The Leader of the Council said the Council was ensuring that the community raised funds would be managed appropriately and transparently and in consultation with those donating. It was thought that in the region of £7,000 had been raised so far through crowd funding, in addition other pledges and donations having been made through other channels.</p> <p>Members felt that it was important to install additional security such as CCTV and consider providing a youth shelter for the older youths so the children's play area was less of an attraction to them. Members' preference was to have security in place before the re-installation of equipment was completed.</p> <p>The Chair invited those in the public gallery to speak.</p> <p>David Bishop of the Wells Bowls Club said that the club hedge had recently been broken into in three different places. He was concerned about the level of vandalism in Wells.</p> <p>The Leader of the Council said the Chief Constable of the Avon and Somerset Police would be at the next meeting of Mendip District Council and he would be welcome to give his concerns at that meeting too.</p> <p>Kirstie Harris said it would be important for all the play area works to be carried out at the same time, so it was only closed once. She also asked that that the play area remain open during half-term. .</p> <p>RESOLVED</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To agree to the like-for-like replacement of the damaged equipment and surfacing. 2. To note that the Committee would receive a detailed update of the possible play area enhancements in January 2017, together with availability of funding to support the enhancements. 3. That the Trust receive an update about the community raised funds in January 2017. 	
7	<p>Urgent Business</p> <p>There was no further urgent business</p>	

The meeting closed at approximately 6.25 pm