

A MEETING OF THE COMMUNITY AND ENVIRONMENT BOARD

WAS HELD ON 5 MARCH 2007

The Mayor (Councillor Mrs Cully)(ex-officio) (P); Chairman of the Policy and Organisation Board (Councillor Cully) (ex-officio) (P), Councillors Ms Ballard (P), Carr (P), Champion (P), Clinton (P), Dickson, Edgar, Kimber (P), Smith (P), Wright (Chairman)(P) and Mrs Wright (P)

40. APOLOGIES

Apologies for inability to attend the meeting were received on behalf of Councillor Edgar.

41. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

42. MINUTES

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Board meetings held on 8 January 2007 and 22 January 2007 be approved and signed by the Chairman as true and correct records.

43. DEPUTATIONS

It was reported that no deputations had been received.

44. PUBLIC QUESTIONS

No questions had been received from the public.

PART I

45. ANN'S HILL CEMETERY – MEMORIAL TESTING

Consideration was given to the report of the Leisure and Cultural Services Manager (a copy of which is affixed in the Minute Book at Appendix 'A') informing Members of the reply received from the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) in response to the Council's request for the HSE to meet the cost of repairs to memorials that had failed to meet the required standards of stability. The report further advised of action that the Council might consider within its legal responsibility as owner of the Cemetery.

Members were advised of an update to the report at paragraph 2.3 in that 160 memorials had now been repaired by their owners, leaving 929 either in a temporary staked or laid down position.

Members acknowledged that some people had been upset at finding gravestones laid down or staked but that every effort had been made to notify members of the public of the work that was being undertaken by the placing of notices in newspapers, libraries and within the cemetery itself. It was further acknowledged that no specific budgetary requirement had been made as the sums required were not known at the appropriate time.

Members were advised that, as the initial work to make the gravestones safe was expected to be effective for at least three years, any long term solution could be phased over the next three years. The proposed reimbursement of a proportion of costs to those eligible could also be phased over a three year period on a first come first served basis.

It was proposed that costs incurred during the current financial year be met by means of a virement of no more than £20,000. In answer to a Member's question, it was confirmed that a saving of £20,000 had been made as a result of work by officers in negotiating the current contract for the running of Holbrook Recreation Centre. Members congratulated officers on this excellent result.

The Chairman was asked to give an assurance that officers would not be held responsible for any overspend in the budget as a result of this virement and he replied that he was prepared to give such an assurance.

The Chairman circulated proposed recommendations that could be made to a meeting of the full Council and, after consideration, these were accepted by the Board.

RECOMMENDED: That the Board recommends to Council that:-

- (a) approval be given to making safe the temporarily staked and laid down headstones as laid down in paragraphs 2.6 and 2.7 of the report;
- (b) this work to be phased over a number of years and in the current financial year by means of virement of no more than £20,000;
- (c) the sum of £50 be paid to those grave owners who have, or have had, the headstones of graves for which they are responsible repaired to National Association of Memorial Mason standards and on production of the appropriate receipt. This to be on a first come first served basis; and
- (d) reimbursement to apply only to those gravestones subject to the recent round of topple testing since sufficient publicity should now have been given to the matter.

46. PROJECT INTEGRA CONSTITUTION

Consideration was given to a report of the Environmental Services Manager (a copy of which is affixed in the Minute Book at Appendix 'B') seeking approval for a revised and updated Constitution for the Project Integra Strategic Board.

The Chairman congratulated the Environmental Services Manager's officers for their work in dealing with travellers in the Borough over the past few days.

Members requested an amendment to paragraph 8.2. (b) of the Constitution to reflect the fact that the Council would nominate a Member to sit on the Board but not necessarily the Chairman of the Board with responsibility for waste management. Officers agreed to write to Integra requesting this amendment.

RECOMMENDED: That the Board recommend to Council that:

- (a) the revised Constitution for the Project Integra Strategic Board be approved, subject to the amendment to paragraph 8.2. (b) noted above; and
- (b) the Objectives of the Community and Environment Board be amended to include a reference to responsibility for Waste Management matters.

PART II

47. GROUNDWORK SOLENT

Tim Houghton, Executive Director, gave a presentation on the work of Groundwork Solent within the Borough of Gosport. He circulated a copy of a report providing additional details of current projects and activities and development and funding activities (a copy of which is affixed in the Minute Book at Appendix 'C'). He also provided a hard copy of the slides incorporated within his presentation (a copy of which is affixed in the Minute Book at Appendix 'D'). The Chairman thanked Mr Houghton for his presentation and the information provided to the Board.

Members expressed concern at the lack of progress on the creation of play areas in Nobes and Tukes Avenues. Consultation with residents on these projects had taken place two years ago and their expectations had yet to be fulfilled. TH apologised for the delay in carrying out these projects. A number of funding applications had been made but had not been successful. A bid for funding from the Biffa Landfill tax programme was currently under consideration but it would be some months before the outcome was known. Other funding streams were also being explored.

In reply to a Member's question, Mr Houghton agreed that, if within a period of six months funding had not been secured, he would advise the Council that Groundwork Solent would not be able to carry out the project for play areas at

Nobes and Tukes Avenues.

Members expressed interest in the work being done with job seekers, the rehabilitation of offenders and in encouraging young people to take an interest in the local environment.

With reference to work being carried out in the Alver Valley, Mr Houghton explained that the design competition for the visitor centre would be open to professional architects across the country, with specific local practices also being targeted.

The Chairman thanked Mr Houghton for his attendance before he left the meeting at 6.40 pm.

48. PROJECT INTEGRA ANNUAL ACTION PLAN 2007-2012

Consideration was given to a report of the Environmental Services Manager (a copy of which is affixed in the Minute Book at Appendix 'E') seeking approval for the adoption of the Annual Action Plan 2007-2012 for the Partnership. Approval was sought in accordance with the current and revised Constitution.

Members considered the collection of glass within the Borough and requested that, where appropriate, some paper collection bins be replaced with glass collection bins as paper formed part of the household recycling collections. It was considered important to retain some paper collection bins, especially near schools, to encourage young people to recycle goods. A kerbside collection of glass was not possible within current budget restrictions.

Members were advised that Integra were investigating whether waste from charity shops could be classed as domestic waste and be included in their domestic recycling statistics, or whether it had to be classed as trade waste.

Members considered that there was still a need to educate residents about recycling as contamination continued to be a problem. Officers advised that Waste Efficiency grant money was to be used to provide two inspectors to monitor waste from communal areas.

RESOLVED: That:

- (a) approval be given to the Draft Annual Action Plan 2007-2012; and
- (b) where appropriate, paper collection bins should be replaced by glass collection bins.

49. CONSIDERATION OF THE ADOPTION OF ALARM NOTIFICATION AREAS WITHIN THE DISTRICT OF GOSPORT BOROUGH COUNCIL

Consideration was given to a report of the Environmental Services Manager (a

copy of which is affixed in the Minute Book at Appendix 'F') advising Members that the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005 gave Local Authorities the power to declare part or their entire district as an Alarm Notification Area. This power would only be enforceable if adopted by the Council. The purpose of the report was to consider that power and to make recommendations to the Board in relation to its adoption.

Members considered the recommendations of the report to be entirely appropriate as very few complaints had been received concerning alarms.

RESOLVED: That:-

- (a) the provisions relating to Alarm Registration Areas contained in the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005 be not adopted by Gosport Borough Council and that no Alarm Registration Area be declared within the area of the Authority; and
- (b) the Environmental Service Manager be requested to publish a notice of the decision in a local newspaper.

50. REVIEW OF THE CONTAMINATED LAND STRATEGY

Consideration was given to a report of the Environmental Services Manager (a copy of which is affixed in the Minute Book at Appendix 'G') that sought approval for the review of the Contaminated Land Strategy previously adopted by the Council.

RESOLVED: That the revised Contaminated Land Strategy be adopted.

51. PRIVETT PARK REPLACEMENT PAVILION (UPDATE)

By reason of special circumstances, the Chairman determined that this item be considered at this meeting notwithstanding the fact that the item had not been available for public inspection in accordance with the provisions of Section 100B(4)(a) of the Local Government Act 1972.

The special circumstances were created by the fact that tenders for the provision of a replacement pavilion for Gosport Borough Cricket Club had recently been received and acceptance of the most suitable tender was required as soon as possible in order that work could begin on providing replacement facilities for the Club for this season.

Consideration was given to a report of the Leisure and Cultural Services Manager (a copy of which is affixed in the Minute Book at Appendix 'H') bringing to Members' attention developments since the report presented to the Board in June 2006 and seeking approval for the acceptance of a tender for the replacement pavilion.

Members were shown plans for the proposed pavilion and assured that anti-vandalism measures had been incorporated within the design.

Members noted that the Football Club would not be sharing the facilities of the new pavilion and questioned the continued use by footballers of the Number 2 Pavilion, which was not in a good state of repair. However, they welcomed the fact that Alverstoke Tennis Club would be sharing the premises.

Officers explained that the Cricket Club had been unable to obtain the £90,000 of funding required for the two storey football/cricket pavilion originally proposed. Officers had a meeting arranged with a representative of the Gosport and Fareham Football League to discuss the potential for funding a replacement facility for the Number 2 Pavilion as this was a top priority for the League in respect of football facilities in the Borough.

RESOLVED: That acceptance of the lowest tender for the provision of a replacement pavilion for Gosport Borough Cricket Club be approved.

The meeting commence at 6.00 pm and concluded at 7.45 pm

CHAIRMAN