

A MEETING OF THE COMMUNITY AND ENVIRONMENT BOARD

WAS HELD ON 18 JUNE 2007

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

It was reported that, in accordance with Standing Orders, notice had been received that Councillor Foster would replace Councillor Clinton for this meeting.

5. APOLOGIES

Apologies for inability to attend the meeting were received on behalf of The Mayor and Councillors Ms Ballard and Clinton.

6. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

7. MINUTES

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Board meetings held on 5 March 2007 and 17 May 2007 be approved and signed by the Chairman as true and correct records.

8. DEPUTATIONS

It was reported that no deputations had been received.

9. PUBLIC QUESTIONS

No questions had been received from the public.

PART II

10. AUTHORISATION OF OFFICERS UNDER THE PROVISIONS OF PART 1 CHAPTER 1 OF THE HEALTH ACT 2006

Consideration was given to the report of the Environmental Services Manager (a copy of which is affixed in the Minute Book at Appendix 'A') informing Members that the Health Act 2006 introduced the prohibition of smoking in certain premises, places and vehicles and local authorities, including district councils, were the enforcing authority. Officers of the authority would have to be authorised to enforce the provisions of the Act and regulations made thereunder.

Members were advised that Fixed Penalty Notices would not be the first recourse of enforcement officers. The aim would be to educate and advise in the first instance. Enforcement officers would not be from Street Scene but would be from Environmental Health and Licensing.

In answer to a Member's question, it was confirmed that officers were liaising with local authorities in Hampshire and the Isle of Wight in order that consistent policies and processes could be put in place to enforce the new legislation. Liaison was also taking place with local Primary Care Trusts and Members welcomed this as part of the government Wellbeing Agenda.

RESOLVED: That the Policy and Organisation Board and Council be recommended to approve:-

(a) the delegations to the Environmental Services Manager being amended to include the power to authorise officers as required by Section 10(5) of the Health Act 2006;

(b) the appointment of the Environmental Services Manager, or the Head of Environmental Health in his absence, as the appropriate person to decide upon the cancellation of a Fixed Penalty Notice; and

(c) the Borough Solicitor being authorised to make all necessary amendments to the Council's Constitution to give effect to Recommendations (a) and (b) above.

11. PLAY STRATEGY

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 'B') seeking the Board's approval of the draft Play Strategy. The Board was also requested to recommend the draft Strategy to the Policy and Organisation Board for approval.

The Chairman advised the Board that, on their behalf, he had thanked the officers involved for their hard work in the preparation of the draft Play Strategy and in the preparation of the bid to the Big Lottery Fund.

In answer to Members' questions, it was confirmed that budget options would be considered once the results of the Big Lottery Fund bid were known. If the bid was not successful, developer contributions could be used to implement some of the actions detailed in Appendix H to the report.

RESOLVED: That:

- (a) the draft Play Strategy be approved; and
- (b) the draft Play Strategy be recommended to the Policy and Organisation Board for approval.

12. CAMDEN ALLOTMENTS

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 'C') seeking approval for the use of funding received by the Council from the sale of land at Camden Allotments to provide areas within the facility for car parking requirements and skip locations. This work would incorporate creating new access to existing unused/inaccessible areas to bring further allotment plots into use.

Members were advised that the capital receipt was a fixed sum that was reducing but was accruing interest. The planned works had been identified through discussions with the Allotment Stakeholders Consultative Group and therefore were in accordance with the needs of the allotment holders themselves. Other works carried out at Camden included improvements to the security of the site.

Members approved the proposals as further plots would be made available to accommodate the increasing interest in allotment use. Problems with on-street parking in the surrounding roads would also be reduced by the introduction of parking places.

RESOLVED: That the use of £8,750 to facilitate car parking requirements and skip locations from the available funding for improvement works to Camden Allotments be approved.

13. IMPROVEMENT TO FACILITIES AT BRIDGEMARY BOWLING CLUB, ROWNER CRICKET CLUB AND PRIVETT PARK TENNIS COURTS

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 'D') seeking Board approval for the use of Developer Contributions for improvements to Leisure facilities at the following locations:

- Bridgemark Bowling Club
- Rowner Cricket Club
- Privett Park Tennis Courts

Members were advised that, in each case, the works would be carried out at the end of the main playing season but before the onset of winter weather.

Members welcomed the improvements in security that the proposed works would give to open spaces that were vulnerable to invasion by travellers.

RESOLVED: The Board approved the use of £70,000 funding as detailed in the report of the Leisure and Cultural Services Manager.

14. CHAIRMAN'S URGENT ITEMS

By reason of special circumstances, the Chairman determined that the following items be considered at this meeting notwithstanding the fact that the items had not been available for public inspection in accordance with the provisions of Section 100B(4)(a) of the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985.

i. Improvements to Privett Park Enclosure

The special circumstances were created by the fact that it had been intended to include this item in the report of the Leisure and Cultural Services Manager for Agenda Item 9. However, the quote for this work was not received until Monday, 11 June 2007 which was after the agenda for the Board had been despatched.

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 'E') seeking Board approval for the use of Developer Contributions for improvements to the facilities at Privett Park Enclosure.

Members welcomed the recent success of the Gosport Borough Football Club and approved the proposed improvements to the perimeter safety barriers and access to the ground for the disabled.

ii. Working Group to Consider the Christmas Lights

The special circumstances were created on the grounds that, in order to undertake the forward planning to which Members would have an input, the process would need to start well in advance of any scheme design. It was also possible that Members would wish to invite the business community to take part in the displays and therefore, time was required to meet with their representatives and consider options, prior to the Council placing any orders for lighting services.

The Chairman advised that a Working Group would need to be set up to consider improvements and changes to the display of Christmas Lights in the Borough as the present lights were getting old and becoming unreliable.

It was proposed that a Working Group be formed on a 1:1:1 political basis and Councillors Carr, Dickson and Wright were nominated.

RESOLVED: That

(a) the use of £11,500 funding from the Sports Pitches Account as detailed in the report of the Leisure and Cultural Services Manager be approved.

(b) A working Group consisting of Councillors Carr, Dickson and Wright be formed to consider proposals for the display of Christmas Lights in the Borough.

At the close of the meeting, Councillor Edgar requested that he be permitted to take this opportunity to record his thanks to the officers from Leisure and Cultural Services, especially to the Head of Parks and Service Facilities, and to the Civic Staff for all their hard work in making recent high profile civic events so successful. A number of last minute changes had had to be made to the organisation of the recent 25th Anniversary Falklands Memorial Service and Parade. The event had run smoothly and been very well received by all who took part. Councillor Smith also extended his thanks to Councillor Kimber for his moving and informative speech during the Service which helped to make it a special occasion.

The meeting commenced at 6.00 pm and concluded at 6.49 pm

CHAIRMAN