

**A MEETING OF THE COMMUNITY AND ENVIRONMENT BOARD
WAS HELD ON 19 JANUARY 2009**

The Mayor (Councillor Kimber) (P); Councillors Beavis (P), Burgess (P), Chegwyn (Chairman) (P), Edgar (P), Mrs Forder (P), Langdon (P) Murphy (P), Salter (P), Smith (P) and Wright (P).

47. APOLOGIES

There were no apologies for inability to attend.

48. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

49. MINUTES

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the meeting of the Board held on 3 November 2008 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a true and correct record.

50. DEPUTATIONS

It was reported that no deputations had been received.

51. PUBLIC QUESTIONS

No questions had been received from the public.

PART II

**52. PLAY AND SKATEPARK IMPROVEMENTS AT WALPOLE PARK
AND ELSON RECREATION GROUND**

Consideration was given to a report of the Leisure and Cultural Services Manager which sought the Board's approval for the use of Developer Contributions for improvements to the play area facilities at Walpole Park Play Area and Elson Recreation Ground.

Members were advised that consultation had taken place with young people who had specifically cited that the lack of facilities was an issue for them and contributed to antisocial behaviour in these areas.

Members agreed that undertaking the improvements would help strengthen the good relationship being developed between adults and young people and also expressed their appreciation to the Ward Councillors, Youth Council, Police and Officers for their hard work towards the project.

A Member queried whether older children would be kept out of the improved play areas as they were intended for younger children. The Board was advised that it was the responsibility of the Community Police to monitor this and Alan Gibson agreed to raise the issue with them.

RESOLVED: That the use of £43,500 of Developer Contributions for the following projects be approved:

- 1) Walpole Park Play Area - £32,500
- 2) Elson Recreation Ground - £11,000

53. USE OF COUNCIL LAND FOR EVENTS

Consideration was given to a report of the Chief Executive detailing a procedure for dealing with requests from third parties to use the Council's land for events.

The Chief Executive drew attention to Appendix A of the report and advised that approval was requested for the provisional bookings as detailed and the Waterfront Festival.

Members were also advised that there were draft fees in place; they were not included in the report as they were subject to approval at the forthcoming Council meeting. Members advised that the bookings provisionally made in Appendix A would be subject to the fees agreed.

Clarification was sought as to whether requests for the use of Council land should be presented to the Community and Environment Board when the request was for use of Housing Land, e.g. Skipper Way. Members were advised that the Community and Environment Board would not be able to approve requests for land for which it was not responsible. Requests for use of land within the remit of Housing Board and Policy and Organisation Board would go to these Boards respectively.

An amendment was proposed to paragraph 2.5 of the report. The proposed amendment was to give greater clarification to the restrictions to be decided and imposed under the remit of the Board; Members felt that the report was sufficient in its purpose of detailing the procedure to be followed and the role of the Board.

Members voted on the proposed amendment to add a final sentence to paragraph 2.5 'and to specify any additional conditions the Board wishes to see included in the Land Hiring Agreement such as the times for the event, sale of alcohol and playing of music'

The motion was lost on the Chairman's casting vote.

It was suggested that the Housing Board would require a similar report to clarify

the procedure of use for land managed by that Board.

RESOLVED: That:

- 1) the procedure detailed in paragraphs 2.3 to 2.6 in the report of the Chief Executive which detailed the procedure to be followed in dealing with requests for the use of Council land, be approved; and
- 2) the bookings detailed in Appendix A of the Chief Executive's Report and for the Waterfront Festival, be approved.

54. HOLBROOK RECREATION CENTRE – EXTENSION OF MANAGEMENT CONTRACT

Consideration was given to a report of the Leisure and Cultural Services Manager which sought the Board's approval to extend the contract for the management of Holbrook Recreation Centre until 31 March 2010, whilst the process of procurement for a replacement facility was progressed.

Members were advised that the closing date for expressions of interest for the development of the new Recreation Centre had passed and that details of the expressions of interest would be brought to the Board.

Members were advised that arrangements would be put in place to ensure that the Holbrook Recreation Centre remained open until the new facility was available.

The Members expressed concern whether, at the Centre's current rate of deterioration, it would realistically remain open for a further year. Members were advised that a replacement boiler had been fitted approximately four years ago and that despite a second back-up boiler currently being unavailable, the lifespan of the previous boiler had been 25 years.

Recently, some time had been lost to trading whilst repairs were undertaken to faulty pipe work. Funds were available in the budget to address issues of repair and maintenance.

The Mayor questioned whether there was to be a rise in the cost of entrance fees for the current facility in 2009/10 and, if so, whether they would be justified at such an ailing facility.

Members were advised that this was to be decided at the Council budget meeting and that the Council had control over the pricing of the key components, the swimming pool, the squash courts and the fitness centre.

Members were advised that the subsidised swimming scheme for over 60 and under 16 year olds would commence in April 2009, although a contingency plan to use other pools in the Borough had been considered should Holbrook Recreation Centre not be available.

Members were also advised that, due to a lower than expected uptake of the scheme, a small amount of additional funding had been secured.

RESOLVED: That the extension of the contract for the management of Holbrook Recreation Centre until 31 March 2010 be approved.

The meeting commenced at 6.00 pm and concluded at 6.25 pm

CHAIRMAN