

# LUDGERSHALL TOWN COUNCIL



## Minutes of:

### RECREATION, LEISURE & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

HELD WEDNESDAY 17<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2013 IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS AT 7- 30PM.

1. **PRESENT:** Cllrs Allan, Betteridge, Dance, Kennedy, White, Williams with Cllr Crane in the chair
2. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:** were received from Cllr Downie, leave of absence.
3. **DECLARATION OF INTEREST:** There were no declarations of interest made.
4. **MINUTES:** Minutes of the previous committee meeting had been approved at the most recent full council meeting without comment.
5. **CHAIRMAN'S OPENING REMARKS:** Cllr Crane opened the meeting and thanked everyone for attending. He went on to thank Cllr Kennedy for her support and work on the RLE Committee and LTC in general. From the Chair Cllr Crane invited Cllr Kennedy to any future RLE Committee meeting, he said that the committee would welcome any input Cllr Kennedy would like to offer. Cllr Kennedy has decided not to stand for re-election.
6. **MATTERS ARISING. From previous minutes; LTC Newsletter;**
  - a) 1<sup>st</sup> LTC Newsletter printed & circulated with positive feedback. After a discussion it was agreed to continue with an "as and when" approach.
  - b) It was agreed the next newsletter should include the newly elected councilors and reports on recent business opening events.
7. **PLAY AREAS**
  - a) **Dewey's Lane;**
    - i. **A site meeting;** was due to take place but postponed because of inclement weather.
    - ii. **Install new pole & sign;** as the weather is about to improve it was agreed to plan to install the new pole and sign.
    - iii. Cllr Crane will advise when he intends to visit the Rec to start installation.
  - a) **Pretoria Road;**
    - i. **Fence repairs;** at the meeting it was not known when this work would be undertaken.
    - ii. Post the meeting it was confirmed that the work to replace the totting horizontal member had been completed.
    - iii. Beechfield Carpentry & Joinery will invoice the Clerk for the work, est. cost is £45.00
8. **RECREATION GROUND:**
  - a) **Re- instate removed sign & pole;** this will be undertaken when the sign and post above is installed.
  - b) **Up-date on reconnection of electricity & water supply;**
    - i. Cllr White gave an update on the reintroduction of electrical power and water into the Rec.
    - ii. Manufacture of the metal cabinets has been placed with local companies, costs as previously advised.
    - iii. A quotation for the groundwork at £360 was received by the Chair during the meeting.
    - iv. Cllr Crane thanked Cllr White for his work meeting with suppliers and local companies.
    - v. Once installed these utilities will be available to support organized activities in the Rec.
  - c) **Tree - Right to Light complaint;**
    - i. A complaint regarding a tree situated in the Rec has been received by the Clerk.
    - ii. The complainant considers the tree to be restricting his access to daylight.

- iii. At last month's RLE committee meeting the Chair read out, and provided copies, of a document regarding the "right to Light" in which it gave the impression that the right to light is not an easy situation to identify. In addition both Cllr White and Cllr Crane had independently visited the area to observe the situation.
  - iv. Cllr White provided photographs which clearly demonstrated that the major obstruction to light in the cartilage of the complainant is from the dwelling and not the tree in question, shadows in the photograph clearly show that they come from the dwelling into the Rec and not visa versa.
  - v. The LTC has recently commissioned a tree survey by a professional company specialising in trees, their status, impact on the environment and local dwellings.
  - vi. As a result of this survey extensive work was agreed, where a number of trees were identified as in need of remedial work, this survey did not recommend the trees subject of this complaint for any work.
  - vii. The Clerk provided the meeting with an email from Simon Turner, Arboricultural Officer with Wilts Council in which he quotes "The Law of Trees, Forests and Hedges" by Charles Mynors in which a number of salient points of law are made.
  - viii. One quotation from the email is "Firstly, a right to light must be created: its existence cannot be assumed. It must therefore either be created by a specific grant, which Mynors states that it is unusual, or it must arise as a result of a prescription. The latter occurs where the right has been enjoyed uninterrupted for a period of 20 years.
  - ix. Another quotation from the email states "a right to light can only be enjoyed in relation to a specified opening such as a window and associated to a building. Therefore it cannot be connected to open land such as a garden. There are other important points in the email which are too lengthy for these minutes.
  - x. The Clerk is requested to reply to the complainant and advise them of this latest information, received from WCC. Car Show.
- d) The Clerk has been contacted by a group who wished to use the Rec for a car show, but before this could come before committee the request was withdrawn. However the committee agreed such events would be welcome to use the Rec as long as conditions were applied.

#### **9. ENVIRONMENT –**

- a) New grit bin; in response to a request for additional grit bins WCC have replied and it would seem unlikely such as request would be supported.
- b) Dog Fouling; The Clerk reported the Dog Warden has phoned & will be delivering some new signs to the Clerk to put up around the Town. If a specific location and time is known when dog fouling occurs the dog warden would patrol the area.
- c) Parking Services. An email from Josh Jones, Processing Officer Parking Services attempted to explain the reasons why Ludgershall do not get the same support as Tidworth. There appears to be 7 vacancies for Parking Control Officers and this if given as one reason why there is an unequal level of support offered to both Tidworth.

#### **10. ANY OTHER BUSINESS.**

- a) Issues raised at Annual Town meeting; a request will be made to Transport Group to revisit reducing speeding along A.3026 Tidworth Road by Wellington Academy. Cllr Crane asked if this could be addressed by the new WCC as the level of traffic past the Academy is increasing and so it would seem is the speed. He pointed out that there are other roads close to the Academy where the speed limit is already 30MPH. when it was suggested these other roads were MoD property Cllr Crane suggested the speed limits were there because of the Road Transport Authority and not the MoD
- b) Litter also raised at Annual Town Meeting by a resident– remit to full Town Council to discuss ways forward.

There being no further business to discuss the meeting was closed at 8:30 by the Chair

Signed

Date