Newmarket TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting of the Leisure Services Committee held on Monday, 8th February 2010 at 7.15 pm at the Memorial Hall, Newmarket

Attendance :
Councillor K Bovill, Chairman
Councillor D Hudson, Vice-Chairman
Councillor W Burch
Councillor G Cole
Councillor R Fletcher
Councillor W Hirst
Councillor P Hulbert
Councillor M Jefferys
Councillor J Uney

Also Present: Isabelle Barrett – Town Clerk, Rosemary Foreman – Minute Assistant

	Minute	Action by
L/10/02/1	**APOLOGIES** Apologies were received from Councillors Bailey and Sadler.	
L/10/02/2	**ABSENT** Councillor C Brighty was absent.	
L/10/02/3	**DECLARATION OF MEMBERS INTERESTS & CONSIDER UPDATE OF REGISTER OF INTEREST** None noted.	
L/10/02/4	**TO CONFIRM THE MEETING HELD ON 11th JANUARY 2010** L/10/01/7 – para 11, first sentence – delete *and report back to the next LS meeting in February 2010.* With this amendment, Councillor Bovill signed the minutes of the Leisure Services Committee meeting held on Monday, 11th January 2010, as a correct record.	
L/10/02/5	**MATTERS ARISING** None noted.	
L/10/02/6	**AN INVITATION TO MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC TO PUT QUESTIONS/STATEMENTS OF NOT MORE THAN 3 MINUTES DURATION RELATING TO ITEMS LISTED IN THE PUBLIC PART OF THE AGENDA ONLY** No members of the public were present.	

L/10/02/7 **PROGRESS REPORT ON PLAY EQUIPMENT IN THE MEMORIAL GARDENS**

Councillor Bovill advised that work was scheduled to commence on 10th February, weather permitting, and would be completed before 26th March. Whilst these works were in progress the play area would be out of use to members of the public and security fencing would be installed around the play area.

The project was awarded a grant of £50,000 from the Government backed Play Builder scheme and an additional £8,000 was secured from the SCC Corporate Regeneration Fund. Councillor Lisa Chambers contributed £1,000 towards the project from her locality budget. The total cost of the upgraded equipment and groundworks was in the region of £61,500 and there were sufficient contingency funds in place to meet the cost of the refurbishment part of the project.

The project included Toddler and Junior areas with inclusive equipment also suitable for disabled access. The new equipment being installed included an Activity Net with Rope Bridge, a Cantilever Swing, Free Standing Music Panels, a Rockblock Climbing Structure, Totem Poles and a Dual Slide. There was also DDA specific equipment such as a DDA Inclusive Roundabout and an Accessible Swing Seat.

Alongside this project, a group of Newmarket based community volunteers would be assisting with the refurbishment of the swings, seesaw and the existing equipment located within the Water Play Area. A Sensory Garden would also be installed adjacent to the play area.

Assistant to the Town Clerk was organising a Sunflower Challenge with a pupil from each of the following schools participating: St Felix CEVC Middle School, Laureate CP School, Fairstead House School, All Saints' Primary School, St Louis RC Primary School and Ditton Lodge First School. The pupils would be attending an indoor planting session at the Memorial Hall on Friday, 12th February, at 11am and would also attend the opening event to transplant their seedlings into the new Sensory Garden. Each child would receive a certificate and the child with the tallest Sunflower, after 12 weeks, would win a prize.

The project was for the benefit of the community and it was hoped that many Newmarket residents would attend the official Opening Event on Saturday, 27th March 2010, from 11am-2pm. The event would allow Newmarket's children and residents to explore the new play area and equipment and it was hoped to include lots of free activities, such as Face Painting, activities by the Forest Heath Play Rangers, PlayBus, What's Up Truck, Circus Skills sessions and refreshments.

Councillor Bovill thanked the Assistant to the Town Clerk on behalf of the Leisure Services Committee for all her hard work in planning this project.

L/10/02/8 **UPDATE ON RUGBY UNION FOOTBALL CLUB**

Councillor Fletcher advised that he and Councillors Cole, Edge and Jeffreys had attended the Rugby Club activity day at Scaltback on 31st January. Although the ground had been too hard to play on, they had seen that it was an excellent, well-supported Club. The playing fields were adequate but the clubhouse was in need of refurbishment. The Club's problem was uncertainty regarding their future use of the site and they needed this clarified before they were able to get sponsors for any future plans.

Councillor Jefferys agreed that Scaltback was an excellent site for sports clubs, including the Badminton Club, as it also had a large sports hall. If SCC developed the Scaltback site, they must offer an alternative site to the Rugby Club.

Councillor Hirst suggested that the terms of the Rugby Club's agreement with SCC should be clarified and after further discussion the following recommendation was agreed:

L/10/02/8.01 Recommendation

That Councillor Fletcher draft a letter to SCC saying that the current site at Scaltback was an ideal site for rugby for the town and, if SCC had definite plans for the site, they should advise Newmarket Rugby Club to enable them to make plans for their future. The letter also to ask for clarification of SCC's agreement with Newmarket Rugby Club regarding the use of the Scaltback facilities and to refer to FHDC's draft document regarding Open Space, Sport and Recreation, which identified a lack of outdoor sport space in the town. **Cllr Fletcher**

Following a suggestion by Councillor Bovill, Item 10 on the Agenda was brought forward.

L/10/02/9 **FHDC DRAFT SUPPLEMENTARY PLANNING DOCUMENT: OPEN SPACE, SPORT AND RECREATION**

The Committee received FHDC's Draft Supplementary Planning Document: Open Space, Sport and Recreation and noted that Newmarket was deficient in space for outdoor sport, children and young people's space and natural green space. After discussion, the following recommendation was agreed:

L/10/02/9.01 Recommendation

That Councillor Bovill draft a letter to FHDC expressing concern that Newmarket appeared disadvantaged regarding facilities for outdoor sport, children and young people's space and natural green space, and suggesting that the LDF be used to redress the balance. Town Clerk to ask FHDC to extend the closing date for responses as the Town Council would not meet until 22nd February. **Cllr Bovill**

Town Clerk – Extension granted until 23rd Feb 10

L/10/02/10 **REPORT FROM SPORT FOR THE SEVERALS SUB-COMMITTEE**

Councillor Hirst reported that there were a few outstanding issues to be cleared, such as the mains water supply, telephone line, anti-graffiti paint etc, and he now expected the project to be handed over in April. Discussion took place regarding the appointment of a Caretaker for the pavilion and the following recommendation was agreed:

L/10/02/10.01 Recommendation

That the process be initiated for the recruitment of a part-time Caretaker for the sports pavilion on the Severals. — **Town Clerk**

L/10/02/11 **WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP WITH SNT GROUP REGARDING CYCLING AWARENESS**

As Councillor Turner was unable to attend the meeting, the Committee received his written report regarding the SNT's responsible cycling initiative following complaints about people cycling on pavements, particularly around Valley Way and the High Street. After discussion, the following recommendation was agreed:

L/10/02/11.01 Recommendation

That the question of cycling on pavements in the town be referred to the Community Services Committee for discussion. — **Town Clerk**

L/10/02/12 **DEBRIEF ON BALLROOM DANCE**

Councillor Bovill reported that the Social Dance held on 6th February had been very successful, with over 108 members of the public taking to the dance floor for the live band. It had been really encouraging to see the Memorial Hall full to the rafters with people enjoying themselves and was also good to see older members of the community enjoying a Saturday night in the Town Centre. A number of them commented on the fact that they would have preferred a slightly later start and more dance events to attend.

There were, however, lessons to be learned regarding numbers attending, room layout, source of raffle prizes, etc. The Committee agreed that a report of the event should be sent to the local Press and also included in the Town Crier to publicise NTC's work in organising such events for the community. — **Town Clerk – Missed Newsletter closing date**

Councillor Bovill thanked Councillors Hirst and Hudson for their help on the night and Kay Dawson and Danielle for their efforts in organising the event.

L/10/02/13 **TOWN KEEPER'S REPORT**

None noted.

L/10/02/14 **CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED**

None noted.

L/10/02/15 **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

Monday, 8th March 2010 at 7.15 pm.

L/10/02/16 **EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS & PUBLIC**

With the vote being unanimous, it was

L/10/02/16.01 RESOLVED

That, under section 100a(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public should be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as prescribed in Part 1 of Schedule 12a of the Local Government Act 1972 and indicated against each item and, in all circumstances of the case, the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.

The meeting closed at 8.20 pm.

Signed _____ Date _____