



Newmarket

TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting of the Leisure Services Committee
held on Monday, 11th January 2010 at 7.15 pm at the Memorial Hall, Newmarket

Attendance :

Councillor K Bovill, Chairman
Councillor D Hudson, Vice-Chairman
Councillor J Bailey
Councillor C Brighty
Councillor G Cole
Councillor W Hirst
Councillor P Hulbert
Councillor M Jefferys
Councillor W Sadler
Councillor J Uney

Also Present: Isabelle Barrett – Town Clerk, Mr Neil Richardson – Newmarket Rugby Union Football Club and two additional members from the Rugby Club, Cllr Appleby

Minute	Action by
L/10/01/1 <u>APOLOGIES</u> Apologies were received from Councillors W Burch and R Fletcher.	
L/10/01/2 <u>ABSENT</u> None noted.	
L/10/01/3 <u>DECLARATION OF MEMBERS INTERESTS & CONSIDER UPDATE OF REGISTER OF INTEREST</u> None noted.	
L/10/01/4 <u>TO CONFIRM THE MEETING HELD ON 9th NOVEMBER 09</u> The Minutes of the Leisure Services Committee meeting held on Monday, 9 th November 09 were agreed and signed as a true record by Councillor Bovill.	
L/10/01/5 <u>MATTERS ARISING</u> No matters arising were noted.	
L/10/01/6 <u>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</u> None noted	

L/10/01/7

REPORT FROM CHAIRMAN OF NEWMARKET RUGBY CLUB

The Committee noted the letter from Mr Neil Richardson, Chairman of Newmarket RUFC, in which he highlighted the urgent need to find a new site to accommodate a clubhouse, a minimum of three pitches as well as one training pitch and adequate parking facilities.

Cllr Bovill welcomed Mr Richardson to the meeting and invited him to present his business plan to Members of the Council. Mr Richardson advised of the following:-

The Newmarket Rugby Club had been in existence since 1956 and moved to their present grounds in 1969 when it was 'Scalback Recreation Ground' and before the current major occupier of the site, Scalback Middle School' was built.

The Rugby Club currently sustains two senior teams and one veteran team. The Club also runs a number of Youth and Mini rugby teams and these sections have grown successfully in size to a point where the Club can offer rugby to all age groups from 7 to 17 years. Currently the Mini and Youth section boasts more than 200 registered players and the number keeps on growing.

The Club currently leases its grounds from Scalback Middle School and the lease is due to expire in 2018, but the Rugby Club are concerned that the lease could be terminated as early as 2012 due to the local school reorganisation; the move from a three tier to a two tier school system.

Due to the Club having to vacate its present playing facilities, a key priority would be the identification of an alternative site, the sourcing of funding and the creation of a new ground and clubhouse. A suitable site would have to be in the region of six hectares to include a minimum of 3 good quality pitches as well as a training area, floodlights and a clubhouse with six changing rooms and sufficient shower facilities. The project costs for the pitches, the clubhouse, floodlighting, access road and parking for 100 cars would total approximately £1,711,430 (excl. VAT). The land purchase is excluded from this figure.

Mr Richardson advised that should the Club be successful in their plans, they would actively encourage other Clubs and Community Groups to share the facilities.

Mr Richardson confirmed that he had approached some benefactors, who would be willing to contribute towards this vision, subject to an alternative site being found and confirmed.

Mr Richardson advised that it was important to the Club and its Members, that the Clubs training grounds remain within a two to three mile radius of the town centre as members see the Club as the Newmarket Rugby Club.

He had already met with representatives of a number of agencies, to discuss possible sites such as Hatchfield Farm or the current Polo Grounds in Borough Green, although the latter site would not be suitable due to clashes in the playing schedule. Newmarket College grounds would also be a possibility as well as remaining on their current grounds, if the current buildings located on the site could be re-utilised as a clubhouse.

Cllr Sadler agreed to bring this matter to the attention of SCC and report back to the next LS meeting in February 2010. Members of the Committee agreed that the Rugby Club is a great asset to Newmarket and it would be a disaster to the people of Newmarket to lose such an active Club.

Members therefore agreed to recommend the following:-

L/10/01/7.01 Recommendation

That Newmarket Town Council support the Newmarket RUFC with their aspirations to find a suitable site in Newmarket.

Town Clerk

Cllr Bovill thanked Mr Richardson for his detailed and informative presentation. Members agreed that in readiness of the Town Council meeting, that the Town Clerk emails the Newmarket RUFC business plan to all members of the Town Council.

Done on 12.01.10

L/10/01/8

PROGRESS REPORT ON PLAY EQUIPMENT IN THE MEMORIAL GARDENS

Councillor Bovill advised members of the following progress made:-

The order had been placed with Play World and the work was scheduled to commence on 10th February 2010 with a completion date of 17th February 2010 subject to suitable weather conditions.

Newmarket In Bloom had kindly agreed to provide an area of sensory planting and this would be linked to the existing herb garden.

The first meeting of the project working team took place on Saturday 9th Jan 2010. Membership of the project team consists of members of the Town Council and Youth Council, NIB and one volunteer coordinator.

It is the intention of the project team to refurbish some of the remaining equipment that is not being replaced. The next meeting of the project team is scheduled to take place on Tuesday 19th Jan and Denise Causier from SCC Playbuilder will be present at that meeting.

L/10/01/9

REPORT FROM SPORT FOR THE SEVERALS SUB-COMMITTEE

Councillor Hirst reported that work is progressing very well. The internal works were nearly completed and we were currently looking at a completion date around the end of Feb 10.

L/10/01/10 REVISED SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

The Committee received and noted the revised schedule of events for 2010.

L/10/01/11 BRIEF ON OLYMPIC & PARALYMPIC SUB-COMMITTEER

Councillor Jefferys reported that the launch of the Legacy Project had taken place at the Reception held at the Leisure Centre in November 09. The Reception had been very well attended although disappointingly no businesses had attended.

Two smaller Olympic events would mark the run up to the big event in 2012 and all planned sporting activities were making excellent working progress. The aim would be to involve all our local schools and sports clubs as well as those in the surrounding villages. A meeting of the Committee was due to take place this Wednesday to discuss the cultural legacy.

L/10/01/12 DEBIEF ON CHRISTMAS REMEMBER WHEN SHOW & CHILDREN'S PARTY

Cllr Bovill advised that the adult Christmas Remember When show proved as popular as ever and that we had received some excellent feedback. However, the date of next years adult Christmas Show had been moved to avoid clashing with Mr Gredley's Christmas Parties. Cllr Bovill thanked the staff and all those Cllrs who gave their time so generously to help make the event a success on the day.

Cllr Bovill advised that the children's Christmas Party had been postponed due to adverse weather conditions. The Party had now been re-scheduled to take place in February 2010 as a children's 'Fun Day'.

L/10/01/13 SMALL BUDGET GRANT APPLICATIONS JULY - DECEMBER 2009

The Committee received applications under the Small Budget grant Scheme and after discussion made the following recommendations:

L/10/01/13.01 Recommendation

That the Breast Cancer Support Group be awarded a grant of £250.

Town Clerk

L/10/01/13.02 Recommendation

That The Friendly Club be awarded a grant of £250.

Town Clerk

L/10/01/13.03 Recommendation

That The Thursday Club be awarded a grant of £250.

Town Clerk

Members of the Committee enquired subject to the above recommendations being approved by the Town Council, what the balance of the small grant budget would be. Town Clerk advised that the remaining balance would total £337.

L/10/01/18 **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**
Monday, 8th February 2010 at 7.15 pm.

L/10/01/19 **EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS & PUBLIC**
With the vote being unanimous, it was

L/10/01/19.01 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 8.40pm

Signed _____ Date _____