

LEIGHTON-LINSLADE TOWN COUNCIL
MINUTES OF GROUNDS & ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE
MONDAY, 9 NOVEMBER 2020 AT 7.30 PM

Present: Councillors R Berry (Chair)
 S Jones (Vice-Chair)
 T Morris
 F Kharawala
 V Harvey
 A Gray - left 1955 hours
 P Snelling
 A Dodwell (substituting for B Spurr)

Also in attendance: M Saccoccio, Town Clerk
 I Haynes, Head of Grounds and Environmental
 Services
 S Sandiford, Head of Democratic and Central
 Services
 M Jahn, Committee Officer
 J Gelder, Community Action Bedfordshire
 Trading Ltd – part meeting
 G Croxford, Community Action Bedfordshire
 Trading Ltd – part meeting
 Cllr G Perham

Members of the public: 0
Members of the press 0

80/GE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor B Spurr (substituted by Councillor A Dodwell).

81/GE DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Members were asked to declare any interests, including the nature of those interests, which they had in any of the items under consideration at this meeting. No pecuniary interests were declared.

82/GE QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

G Croxford and J Gelder, representing Community Action Bedfordshire Trading Ltd gave a presentation to committee in respect of the concessions for Parson's Close Recreation Ground. A number of questions were asked for clarification on points including status of the organisation, financial matters and community engagement.

83/GE EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC

RESOLVED that, under the Public Bodies (Admissions to Meetings) Act 1960, the public be excluded on the grounds of the confidential nature of the business about to be transacted which involves the likely disclosure of exempt information. The public and press to withdraw from the meeting during consideration of detailed discussion regarding: concession fees 2020-2021.

J Gelder and G Croxford left the meeting.

84/GE CONCESSION FEES 2020-21

The Committee received two documents in respect of the concessions for Parson's Close Recreation Ground and gave consideration to the request from Community Action Bedfordshire Trading Ltd to waive concession fees for 2020-21 as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Discussion took place with a number of suggestions being put forward for consideration. On being proposed and seconded, a resolution was agreed unanimously.

RESOLVED to waive the concession fees for the financial year 2020-21 for Parson's Close Recreation Ground on the basis that:

- (i) The Council recognises the financial impact of the Covid-19 pandemic during 2020-21 and**
- (ii) The Council recognises the broader community benefit of the Café in the Park initiative and supports the intention to keep the Café open throughout the winter to help to address loneliness and social isolation issues.**

RESOLVED to form a Task and Finish Group comprising Councillors V Harvey, S Jones, F Kharawala, T Morris and P Snelling to work with officers to review concession arrangements going forward, including asking Community Action Bedfordshire Trading Ltd for a plan/strategy to continue providing wider benefit to the community in future.

The meeting closed at 9.14 pm.

I HEREBY CONFIRM THAT THE FOREGOING IS A CORRECT AND ACCURATE RECORD OF THE MEETING HELD ON MONDAY, 9 NOVEMBER 2020.

Chair

8 MARCH 2021