

MINUTES of the TRUSTEES OF THE RECREATION GROUND - Lingfield Road (charity no. 302733) - held at 7.38 pm on 29 November 2021 in Rickards Hall

Present: Cllrs J Aldridge, A Baker (Vice-Chairman), S Compton, M Gemmell Smith, V Jennings, A Layland, N Lloyd, and S McGregor

In attendance: Town Clerk; no members of the public and no members of the press.

Cllr Todd (Chairman) was absent from the meeting, Cllr Baker was appointed to Chair the meeting as Vice-Chair of the Council.

1. TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received, noted and accepted from Cllrs Damodaran, McArthur, Read and Todd.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS OR PREDETERMINATION

None.

3. TO RECEIVE, ADOPT AND SIGN OF THE TRUSTEES OF RECREATION GROUND - Lingfield Road - MEETING HELD ON 23 NOVEMBER 2020

Resolved: that the minutes of the Recreation Ground - Lingfield Road - meeting held on 23 November 2020 be duly signed by the Chairman as a true and accurate record of the meeting; pages 9447-9448.

4. TO APPROVE THE ACCOUNTS FOR THE RECREATION GROUND - Lingfield Road

The Charity End of Year Accounts 2020/21 and the Annual Report were presented for approval. The accounts recorded 'nil' return and zero bank balance; copy attached. Members,

Resolved: that the Accounts should be signed by the Chairman of the Council, on behalf of the Trustees, as a true record of the Charity's financial position.

5. TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON THE COMPOSITION OF THE CHARITY FOLLOWING FULL COUNCIL MEETING JANUARY 2021

Councillor Baker referred to the meeting paper which provided an update on recent investigations in to the administration of the charity: following the Finance Committee Meeting December 2020, and the full Council meeting January 2021, concerns about the accounting for the two (The Public Recreation Ground and Recreation Ground Lingfield Road) recreation ground charities and how they are operated had been raised and further advice had now been taken. The solicitor had checked the Land Registry freehold and leasehold title for Lingfield Road - the Town Council is the registered proprietor of the freehold. It could be that the Council holds the land as bare or custodian trustee for the persons named as trustees at the Commission. (There was a Ministry of Education Order in 1950 that appointed the Council as sole trustee of the Recreation Ground).

Advice was now going to be sought from the Charities Commissions: why are the trustees named individuals rather than the Council as a body corporate. Previous advice had included that the Council, as charity trustee of the charity, could enter into a deed to transfer all their responsibilities to the Council, but initial advice from the Charities Commission did not support this and either two charities could be merged or to close the charity. The best and correct way to manage the two charities accounts was still under investigation with advice being sought from the Charities Commission and solicitor. An update would be presented to full Council in due course.

Meeting closed at 19:40

The Public Recreation Ground - Blossoms Park - Accounts
Charity Commission
Registered Number 302732
1st April 2020 to 31st March 2021

Balance in Hand 31st March 2020	0.00
Receipts	
	0.00
Total Receipts	<u>0.00</u>
Payments	
	0.00
Total Payments	<u>0.00</u>
Balance in Hand 31st March 2021	0.00
Funds held at National Westminster Bank ETC Trustees of the Public Recreation Ground	<u>0.00</u>

Annual Report

The Public Recreation Ground (Blossoms Park) freehold is owned by the Town Council but with a charity account and conveyance assigns that the Parish Council to maintain fencing. The management of the total public recreation ground is overseen by the Council's Open Spaces Committee, and all costs and income is accounted for as part of the Town Council's accounts, and included in its Annual Return.

Signed

Chairman

Responsible Finance Officer

Date