



RECREATION AND PROPERTIES **COMMITTEE**

You are summonsed to attend a meeting of the Recreation & Properties Committee at the following, place and date.

Date: Tuesday 2 September 2008

Time: Immediately following the Planning Committee Meeting

Venue: Council Chamber, Town Hall, Devizes

Enquiries: 01380 722160

Chairman: Councillor Parsons
The Town Mayor (Councillor Mrs Burton)

Councillors: Beinhorn Callow Mrs S Evans
Gudgeon Leighton Smith
A R Taylor C S Winchcombe

AGENDA

1. MINUTES

To approve as a correct record and authorise the Chairman to sign the minutes of the meetings held on the 22 July 2008, which have been circulated with the agenda.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

3. DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

To receive any disclosure(s) of interest by a Councillor or an officer in matters to be considered at this meeting, in accordance with provisions of Sections 94 or 117 of the Local Government Act 1972 or the National Code of Local Government Conduct.

4. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

At the Chairman's discretion, members of the public attending the meeting will be allowed to ask questions, make a statement or address the Council upon a matter of concern to that person which is relevant to the Council. A time limit of 5 minutes per person will be permitted, but this may be extended at the Chairman's discretion and a maximum period of 20 minutes has been allocated by the Council for this item of business.

5. REPORT FOR INFORMATION – VENUES INCOME FIGURES

Income figures for the Council's venues for the period April 2008 to 31 July 2008 are attached (doc 5/1-5/3). These figures indicate the monthly income and cumulative income against budget

6. REPORT FOR INFORMATION – VENUES – CUSTOMER SATISFACTION FEEDBACK

Attached to this Agenda (doc 6/1) is the Venues Customer Feedback information received up to the end of July 2008.

7. REPORT FOR INFORMATION – QUAKERS WALK ALLOTMENTS; SITE ENTRANCE

This committee is advised that grounds work to the entrance of Quakers Walk is due to commence on Tuesday 2nd September. The entrance pathway will be excavated to a depth of 200mm by 1.2m wide by 20m in length. This will then be filled with 150mm of compacted hardcore then the top layer will be 50mm of compacted scalpings.

8. REPORT FOR INFORMATION – MIRROR IN TOWN HALL TOILETS

Following a request from the Town Mayor, the damaged mirror in the downstairs Town Hall toilet has now been replaced.

9. REPORT FOR INFORMATION – PLAY AREA ON THE GREEN.

Following the committee's decision to select Record RSS as the preferred supplier for the replacement of the play area on the Green, members of the working party met the company's agent to review the design and installation. It was decided that no alterations were needed with the exception of powder coating the fence green to tone it down rather than the bright-galvanised colour specified. The cost of this amendment to the design is £455.

The new play area design was displayed at the "Party in the Park", on the 17 August where it was well received by adults and children.

The order has now been placed and a completion date of 20 October has been given by the council to ensure that it can open for the school half term.

10. REPORT FOR INFORMATION – HILLWORTH PARK LOTTERY APPLICATION

Following the council's application for lottery funding for the Hillworth Park project made in March this year, representatives of the Heritage Lottery Fund and Big Lottery Fund undertook a site visit on the 4 August.

The visit took most of the day and officers aided by Councillor Parsons and Sarah Bridewell, treasurer of the Friend of Hillworth Park, answered questions on the project.

We have learnt that the Hillworth Park project is the only application which has been made from the South West; however, applications totalling £61,000,000 have been made for this tranche of funding with a pot of only £20,000,000 to fund them. This means that the details in each of the applications are being measured and scrutinised very closely.

As a result of the visit, officers have needed to make some adjustments to the plan, which includes the removal of the "New Devizes Castle", reducing the proposed car park back to the current side and the removal of the youth shelter. In addition there was concerns that given the scale of the Hillworth Park project the council did not currently have sufficient in-house resources to deliver the project. Therefore a funding allocation has been made for a project manager.

Additional funding has also been included for activities in the park. It was the Big Lottery's view that the only way to significantly increase the number of people who visit the park is to hold more events like the carnivals "Party in the Park".

Officers and members of the Friends of Hillworth Park showed the plans at the recent "Party in the Park" and the amendments were generally well received.

It is officers understanding that the South West board will consider the application in September and if they support the application then it will be sent to the National Trustees to be considered against all the other applications. Given the stages the application needs to go through, it is difficult to see how we will receive an answer on the application before October.

11. REPORT FOR DECISION – CAPITAL EXPENDITURE 2009/2010

Recommendation

The committee are requested to consider what expenditure of a capital nature they would like to see included as part of the 2009/2010 budget.

Purpose of the Report

This report has been placed on the agenda to give officers sufficient time to cost any items members wish to be included in the 2009/2010 budget.

Background

Each year the council will set the level of precept in December through a budget process and this will take effect from 1 April the following year.

The budget is made up from revenue items such as utilities costs, salary costs and other such costs which the Council incur each year, large capital items, previously agreed, for which a reserve is being built up and items of a capital nature such as supporting the Town Centre Manager and CCTV which officers or members consider necessary.

The Full Council will make the final decision about whether an item should be included within the budget when it sets the precept. However once the precept has been set, it is far more difficult to find funds for items, which may wish to be purchased.

Options Considered

The committee needs to decide what major items outside of the normal replacement issues it wishes officers to cost prior for inclusion within the 2009/2010 budget.

Implications & Risks

Financial and Resource Implications

The financial implications will ultimately determine the level of precept the Council sets. The budget will determine the level of resources the council has at its disposal.

Legal Implications and Legislative Powers

As a local council Devises Town Council has the power to set a precept which it will serve on the billing authority to collect.

Environmental Implications

The decision on what items to put forward for inclusion within the estimates has not environmental implications. However, the items themselves may have and therefore should be considered at the time it is agreed that the project should go ahead.

Risk Assessment

In not considering what items of expenditure the Council may desire to make in 2009/10 the Council may have insufficient funds to undertake the work in that year.

Crime and Disorder

Officers are not aware of any issues the Council should consider under Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder act 1998.

12. REPORT FOR DECISION – SKATE PARK EQUIPMENT

Recommendation

That the committee decides what they wish to do with the redundant skate park equipment held in storage.

Purpose of the Report

To agree the future of redundant skate park equipment held in storage.

Background

For some years skate park equipment removed from Hillworth Park has been in storage at a local farm. Until recently that storage has been undercover but due to the demands of the farm it has recently needed to be moved outside. To store the equipment it costs approximately £180 plus VAT per annum.

The committee will recall that it was hoped that the equipment could be passed onto another organisation for reuse but to date the council has been unable to find anyone who has a suitable site. In May of this year the committee were advised that a local school, who had aspirations to provide a skate park for its students but has been unable to demonstrate that it could be installed without causing a nuisance to local residents and has withdrawn the request to acquire the equipment.

The equipment is now approximately 10 years old officers are becoming concerned whether it is still compliant with play area legislation. In addition the equipment is starting to show signs of age and therefore if a location was eventually found for its reinstallation it would possibly need some work to ensure that it is still safe to use.

Options Considered

The Committee needs to decide if they wish to continue to store the equipment or dispose of it for scrap.

Implications & Risks

Financial and Resource Implications

If the Council wishes to continue to store the equipment then there will be an ongoing storage charge which last year was £180 plus VAT.

If the committee decides to scrap the equipment there may be a scrap value for the metal however if it is required to transport the equipment to a disposal site there will be the inevitable transport charge which could be higher than the scrap value.

Legal Implications and Legislative Powers

The skate park equipment was purchased under its various powers to provide recreational facilities and therefore its disposal is ancillary to this as set out in section 111 of the local government act 1972.

Environmental Implications

Officers are not aware of any environmental implications.

Risk Assessment

Officers are not aware of any risks associated with this decision.

Crime and Disorder

Officers are not aware of any issues the Council should consider under Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder act 1998.

13. EXEMPT REPORT FOR INFORMATION – MATTER RELATING TO COMMERCIAL PROPERTIES

14. QUESTION TIME

Members will be allowed a short period in which to put questions on matters within the remit of this Committee, which are not contained in the reports of matters formally, considered by the Committee at this meeting. The question may be answered at the meeting or may be referred back to the Committee at a later date. The question may not be the subject of any further details.