



## **RECREATION AND PROPERTIES** **COMMITTEE**

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

Date: Tuesday 24 February 2009

Time: Immediately following the Special Community & Civic Resources 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 25 November 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 January 2009 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 January 2009.

**7. REPORT FOR INFORMATION – TREE REMOVAL ON THE GREEN**

Following recommendations by the Parks Team, we carried out a survey of the trees on The Green. (Tree surveys should be undertaken twice annually).

A similar survey was carried out in January 2008 when the first 3 trees were recommended for remedial work, but this was not done. There are now 13 trees requiring immediate attention:

- 1) Tree No 37 Lime to be reduced (20%) to good growth points, remove deadwood, epicormic growth and rebalance to maintain natural form of the tree.
- 2) Tree No 65 Lime – as above.
- 3) Tree No 67 Sectionally fell to ground level and grind stump. This tree is to be replaced with a mature or semi-mature tree in the same site.
- 4) Tree adjacent to The Island (no number) Lime – as item 1.
- 5) Tree No 59 Lime as item 1.
- 6) Tree No 85 Lime – as item 1.
- 7) Tree No 58 Sycamore – remove 50% of co-dominant leader to good growth points.
- 8) Tree No 70 Lime – reduce by 15-20% as item 1.
- 9) Tree No 72 Lime – as above.
- 10) Tree No 73 Lime – as above.
- 11) Tree No 74 Lime – as above.
- 12) Tree No 75 Lime – as above.
- 13) Tree No 77 Lime – as above.

Quotations are being sought for this work. In view of the extreme recent weather, it is advisable to start the work as soon as possible as some of the trees may be in a dangerous condition.

**8. REPORT FOR INFORMATION – TREE WARDEN SCHEME**

A Tree Warden Scheme has been launched in Wiltshire. On 31 January 2 members of the Parks Team visited Lackham College and attended seminars on Tree Identification, Veteran and Ancient Trees in the Landscape, Woodland Biodiversity and Trees and the Law. This is part of a national project to raise awareness of the importance of trees in our environment and their proper care and maintenance. A five-year action plan has been published (NALC) to increase the amount of trees and woodland across England in consultation with the Forestry Commission and Natural England.

We would like to seek the members' support for our involvement, which will require time allowed for study and additional practical work. This might take the form of an educational project – such as collecting seeds, planting and nurturing of young trees, which will also fit in with our community and youth involvement plan. We envisage an initial commitment of no more than one day each for 2 people per month, bearing in mind that we only have a small workforce and several important projects running at the moment. The Parks Team are very keen to be part of the project for the sake of their own continuing development and personal interest.

**9. REPORT FOR INFORMATION – CRAMMER WALL**

The contract to undertake the repointing work on the Crammer Wall is due to commence in April once the risk of heavy frosts has reduced.

The contract has been let to Rock Masonry a firm based in Bradford on Avon who, have undertaken this work in the past. It is estimated that the cost for the work will be £40,000.

**10. REPORT FOR DECISION – VENEUS BAR FRANCHISE**

**Recommendation**

That the committee appoint a member to work with officers to select a new bar franchisee for the next five years.

**Purpose of the Report**

To agree which member will work with officers to select a new bar franchisee.

**Background**

The current bar franchise comes to an end in May and officers are currently seeking expressions of interest for the new franchise.

Officers are anticipating that the new franchisee will be operated under the same arrangements as the current agreement.

The closing date for applicants is Saturday 21 March, and therefore short listing will commence at the beginning of the following week with interviews conducted early in April.

**Options Considered**

The committee needs to decide which member would work with officers to determine the new bar franchisee.

**Implications & Risks**

**Financial and Resource Implications**

As the terms of the franchise are to be as existing, officers are not aware of any financial or resource implications.

**Legal Implications and Legislative Powers**

The Local Government act 1972 s144 provides the Council with the power to provide and encourage the use of its conference facilities.

**Environmental Implications**

Officers are not aware of any Environmental implications associated with this decision.

**Risk Assessment**

Should a committee not appoint a member to work with officers the officers will make the appointment on their own.

**Crime and Disorder**

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

**11. REPORT FOR DECISION – FRIENDS OF HILLWORTH PARK: FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR EVENTS**

**Recommendation**

That the committee agree whether it wishes to make a contribution from reserves to support events being staged by the Friends of Hillworth Park and to agree the value of any such support.

**Purpose of the Report**

For the committee to consider its support for the Friends of Hillworth Park in staging events in the park.

**Background**

The Friends of Hillworth Park are an independent community group who were originally formed to help progress the bid to the Heritage Lottery Fund's Parks for People programme. They have now continued to develop and are taking an active and supportive role in a whole range of activities in the park.

The funding bid to the Heritage Lottery Fund includes a significant level of funding for community events and support, however, this would not come 'on stream' until the stage 2 bid has proved successful.

In the meantime the group are trying to organise events without any budget or significant means of raising funding without any 'pump priming' funds.

This level of community activity is essential to the successful lottery bid, but more importantly supports one of the key objectives in increasing audiences and developing Hillworth Park as a centre for community events.

The Committee may wish to consider setting aside a budget that the Friends of Hillworth can draw down supported by invoices. This would also allow the Council a specific fund from which infrastructure items such as marquees and generators can also be financed.

#### **Options Considered**

It is recommended that the committee consider setting aside a budget from reserves of £2000 from which the Friends of Hillworth Park can draw down funding for events on the basis of production of invoices or receipts for the financial year 2009/2010.

#### **Implications & Risks**

##### **Financial and Resource Implications**

There is currently no budget for this activity and, therefore, funding would have to be provided from the general reserve.

##### **Legal Implications and Legislative Powers**

Officers are not aware of any legal implications.

##### **Environmental Implications**

Officers are not aware of any environmental implications.

##### **Risk Assessment**

Failure to support the Friends of Hillworth Park may adversely affect the success of the lottery application.

##### **Crime and Disorder**

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

RECREATION & PROPERTIES COMMITTEE  
24 FEBRUARY 2009

12. **EXEMPT REPORT FOR INFORMATION – RELATING TO COMMERCIAL PROPERTIES**
13. **EXEMPT REPORT FOR INFORMATION – 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.

TOWN CLERK