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Minutes of the Meeting of the **Leisure & Amenities Committee** held on Wednesday 24th April 2013
at 7.30pm in the Memorial Hall, Bedford Road, Wootton.

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- Present.** Cllrs Bygraves, Chalmers, Cruse, Doggrell, Lloyd, Wallace and Wheeler.
The Clerk (Sue Playford).
- LA13/10 Apologies for absence.**
None.
- LA13/11 Disclosure of local and/or disclosable pecuniary interests.**
None.
- LA13/12 Report from outside organisations.**
Alison Ivatt, Bedford Borough Council Environmental Services Manager attended the meeting and gave a presentation on Dog Control Orders. Handouts were passed to all members present. She explained that the Borough Council were adopting four orders - Dog Exclusion, Fouling of Land, Dogs on Leads and Dogs on Lead by Direction, although the latter would not be enforced at this stage. It was noted that these orders would supersede all previous orders or by-laws within the village, and so the parish council would need to start the process anew should it choose to prevent dogs from being walked within the recreation ground area. Alison agreed to provide the Clerk with various information to assist with that process. She mentioned that Great Barford Parish Council had already started a similar process. The issue of dog fouling was discussed in some detail, as the Clerk had received many complaints about this at various sites within the village. Alison stressed the importance of reporting incidents to the Environmental Services Call Centre on email: callcentre@bedford.gov.uk, online: Online.Forms@www.bedford.gov.uk or telephone: 01234 718060. Days, times, locations and descriptions would be useful information also - only by doing this would Wootton become a potential hot spot for patrols - either plain-clothes or hi-viz as necessary. Alison made a note of areas which had already been brought to the her and the Clerk's attention - including Russell Way, Squires Road, Church Road, Bedford Road near the footpath to Payne Road and Tithe Barn Road. Alison also suggested visiting Bedford Borough Council's website page for further information on Dog Control Orders - www.bedford.gov.uk.
Alison was thanked for her time and left the meeting at 8.05pm.

Action - Clerk to undertake further investigations before adding to the next L&A agenda.

Action - Clerk to prepare an article on how to report dog fouling for the next newsletter.

LA13/13 **List of correspondence received (copies of correspondence can be requested from the clerk).**
None.

Open Forum - meeting to be adjourned.

There were no members of the public present so the meeting continued without adjournment.

LA13/14 **Minutes of the meeting.**
Members of the Leisure & Amenities committee were asked to receive and adopt the minutes of the Leisure & Amenities committee meeting held on the 13th February 2013.
The minutes were signed as a true and accurate record of the meeting.

LA13/15 **Matters arising from the minutes to include issues log review - for information only.**
LA12/09 - RoSPA findings. The works are ongoing but the handyman now needs better weather to complete the trip hazards.

LA12/13 - Insurance review. Clerk has received the revised premium and a part-breakdown. Clerk is now obtaining quotations from other insurers.

LA12/14 then FC12/80 - Skate park. Funding has been secured and an open evening held. Tenders are currently being sourced ahead of full council on 8th May and an advisory committee to assist with the selection process has been formed.

LA12/15 - Village events/organisations - Clerk and Cllr Wallace have requested details of all events within the village open to the general public. With Cllr Wallace for review.

LA13/16 **To receive a report from Cllr Wallace with regard to management of green space and amenity land within the Persimmon Fields Road development, and to resolve on a suitable course of action.**

Cllr Wallace began by detailing the background and stated that DWG plans, as promised by Persimmon, had yet to materialise. The initial proposal received by the Borough Council from Persimmon, involving Greenbelt, was considered very poor, by both the Borough and members of the parish council. Questions and concerns were raised as to whether this was something that could be pursued by the parish council, particularly in light of issues such as drainage, outside the parish council's remit. After detailed discussion it was agreed by all present to continue nonetheless with negotiations with Persimmon, with a view to ensuring a more robust version of their proposal is eventually presented.

Open Spaces Act 1906 ss 9&10.

Action - Cllr Wallace to continue as above.

LA13/17 **To receive a report from Cllr Wallace with regard to the new community building proposed at the Fields Road development, and to resolve how next to proceed.**

The electronic plans were discussed by all present and Cllr Bygraves passed his comments to Cllr Wallace. It was felt minor adjustments were needed to the hall, and it was agreed by all present that Cllr Wallace and the Clerk would take this forward with Andy Lord at Persimmon. Members were asked to forward any additional comments as soon as possible.

Town & Country Planning Act 1990 s106.

Action - Cllr Wallace and the Clerk to continue as above.

- LA13/18 To receive a report from Cllr Wallace with regard to the introduction of a Community Infrastructure Levy, to replace s106 agreements.**
Cllr Wallace detailed the background to s106 agreements and the Government's plan to replace this with a CIL, effective from 2014. Funds totalling 15% would be available to parish councils without a Neighbourhood Plan, however this would increase to 25% for those who had them in place. Cllr Wallace believed the Fields Road south development would most likely be the area that could be affected. It was suggested that investigations start into putting together a Neighbourhood Plan, without formally agreeing to it at this stage, to include community facilities for Fields Road south. Cllr Bygraves agreed to co-ordinate and confirmed he would approach other members for their input, before adding something to the newsletter requesting parishioner's input also.

Town & Country Planning Act 1990 s106.

Action - Cllr Bygraves to liaise with the Clerk and take forward as above.

- LA13/19 To receive a report from Cllr Wallace regarding Seasonal Vegetation Cuts (SVC's) and to resolve whether to request additional paths be included, at a cost to the parish council.**

After discussion it was proposed by Cllr Doggrell, seconded by Cllr Wheeler and resolved by all present to accept the proposal as it was.

Highways Act 1980 ss43&50.

Action - Clerk to liaise with Cllr Wallace and take forward as above.

- LA13/20 To resolve that the Clerk purchase a suitable PA sound system for use at the annual outdoor Christmas carol concert.**

After discussion it was resolved that Cllr Chalmers would speak to Richard Hull (St Mary's church) to see if the parish council could use theirs.

LGA 1972 s137.

Action - Cllr Chalmers to take forward as above and advise the Clerk.

- LA13/21 To resolve that the Christmas tree lights be stored in the changing rooms and that Leisure & Amenities take over responsibility for organising the annual tree and carol concert.**

It was proposed by Cllr Wheeler, seconded by Cllr Lloyd and resolved by all present that L&A take over responsibility for organising the above event, although it was felt there was no where practical at present to store the lights. Cllr Wheeler confirmed he would assist with arrangements as required.

LGA 1972 s137.

Action - Clerk to diarise accordingly.

- LA13/22 To resolve whether to remove the bottle bank currently in situ at the recreation ground.**

It was agreed the bottle bank was a much used and needed facility, despite incidents whereby glass had been removed and left on the car park surface. After

discussion it was proposed by Cllr Cruse, seconded by Cllr Lloyd and resolved by all present to retain it, but request it be emptied more often, to prevent a re-occurrence of the above.

Litter Act 1983 ss5&6.

Action - Clerk to take forward as above.

LA13/23 To resolve whether to grant permission to Bedford Borough Council to plant trees in the village.

It was proposed by Cllr Wallace, seconded by Cllr Cruse and resolved by all present that the recreation ground area near Tithe Barn Road be suggested as a suitable site for Bedford Borough Council and 2nd Wootton Brownies to plant suitable trees.

Highways Act 1980 s96.

Action - Clerk to inform BBC as above.

Meeting closed at 8.40pm

Chairman.....

Date.....