

Minutes of a meeting of **Bingham Town Council** held in The Old Court House, Church Street, Bingham, on **Tuesday, 21st June, 2011**, at **7.00 p.m.**

PRESENT:

Councillor Mrs. M. Stockwood – Town Mayor in the Chair
 " A. Ashmore
 " M. Barham
 " Mrs. A. Bryan
 " G. Davidson
 " J. Eagles
 " A. Harvey
 " Mrs. S. Hull
 " F. Kerry
 " Mrs. T. Kerry
 " F. Purdue-Horan
 " J. Stockwood

1.00 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors P. Abbey and Mrs. J. Marshall.

2.00 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:

There were no Declarations of Interest received.

3.00 ACCOUNTS 2010/2011:

It was proposed to:-

- (a) Seek approval of accounts for submission to the external auditor, along with supporting statements and Internal Audit Report.
- (b) Seek approval of Annual Governance Statement.
- (c) Seek approval that the Mayor and Town Clerk be authorised to sign the Annual Return.

After the Clerk had explained all the supporting statements it was

RESOLVED to unanimously approve the above three items.

4.00 WALLENFELS PLAY AREA PROPOSALS - UPDATE:

The attached proposals were presented by Councillor Purdue-Horan (see Appendix 'C') and notes on police meeting held on the 9th June, 2011, provided by Inspector Hallam (see Appendix 'B')

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4.00 WALLENFELS PLAY AREA PROPOSALS - UPDATE continued....

The Mayor, Councillor Mrs. M. Stockwood, reported on the notes (see Appendix 'A' attached) of the police meeting provided by Inspector Hallam and **Proposed** the five points of the motion which were **Seconded** by Councillor Purdue-Horan.

It was

RESOLVED to approve the five points as per the attached Report 'C'.

As there was no further business to discuss, the meeting closed at 7.20 p.m.

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CHAIRMAN.

Date:-

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The Police supplied notes of the meeting held on Thursday 9th June, at 7.00 p.m. and these are before you. They contain their account of the meeting and these will be referred to as part of the review which is suggested is undertaken.

It was unfortunate that the meeting began with an inference that others had been stopped from attending the meeting when in fact the initial email set out limitations to be placed on the numbers attending. This was adhered to on our part. Cllr Davidson unfortunately was unavailable that day and had indicated so.

As a Council we were pleased at the Annual Town Meeting that Acting Inspector Hallam suggested that the police could address the issue of antisocial behaviour for which they are the body responsible. The Clerk and Councillors had already informed the correct departments of Rushcliffe Borough Council of the other issues surrounding this area.

This Council has a duty to listen to all opinions expressed and to consider them carefully before acting upon them. It is apparent that the command structure that the police are used to does not sit easily with the democratic process of a local Council. Decisions cannot be made by the Mayor or individual councillors. The Council will deliberate these findings, expressed opinions and the advice from both the Police and the Rushcliffe Officers present and the many representations made by constituents in the immediate vicinity of the Play Area. These deliberations will be made in depth and with evidence from many sources.

It is most regrettable that it is not possible to continue the intensive response to this area to address the antisocial behaviour which has been demonstrated to have been a problem even prior to the installation of the park. We are grateful to the Partnership for the funding that has enabled this to take place in the short term.

We are pleased that the Police will continue to work with the South Notts. Community Safety Partnership. On our part we will support the ongoing process of consultation, evaluation of evidence and other procedures to consider the problems surrounding noise, alcohol and parking issues.

In the longer term this Council will work to satisfy all of the requests made by not only the representatives of the surrounding area to the park but the aspirations of other residents also.

I have instigated these proceedings to hopefully bring about in the short term, some respite for those living in the immediate vicinity of the park and to allow the start of the reviewing process to begin.

I propose the 5 parts of this motion along with the promise from myself, as the Mayor, that I will do all that I can to make sure that we can be as inclusive as possible at this play area. It should be possible to have items for those less able in our society to enjoy the benefits of open air play alongside everyone else. I am personally deeply concerned that anyone is denied this chance especially over the summer months.

Cllr Purdue-Horan will second this proposal and speak further to it.

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Wallenfels Park, Bingham

Since the 9 April 2011 Nottinghamshire Police have had a substantial increase in calls from the residents of Bingham, relating to ASB on the newly installed Wallenfels Park. We have continued to have calls through Apr May and June and the majority of these calls have come from Mallard Close, Goldcrest Close or Grantham Road.

Nearly all of the calls have related to young people and noise caused at this location. There have also been calls relating to underage drinking and drunkenness by said youths.

As stated at the last Council meeting, Inspector Hallam instigated an operational policing plan to ensure that a proportionate Policing response was in place to deal with any future calls that arose. There have been numerous Police officers involved in this operation, which has been in place every single day. Twenty-six constables, three Sergeants and one Police Inspector have conducted over 85 additional patrols within this area at all times during the day and night.

This policing plan has had a positive effect, as calls to the Police over Police-related matters have reduced significantly during the past two months. The NPT have also conducted anti-social behaviour risk assessments with residents who reside in the surrounding areas and it is clear that certain individuals are being caused severe distress by noise-generated, certain activities within the park at all hours of the day and night. As mentioned at the latest meeting we have sought advice from our partners at the Borough, to establish from a policing point what the best direction for us to go in is. It should be noted that the current response would not be sustainable on a permanent basis without detriment to the rest of the Borough's policing. As documented in the minutes of the latest meeting, Inspector Hallam and others have numerous tasks, which are work in progress, and therefore the Park is still a current issue for the Police to focus on.

As discussed at the meeting, it appears that the highlighted Devil's Swing is an item of equipment, through its nature, causes young people to make what some might consider to be excessive noise within the park. The Police would therefore support the residents in a trial period of this item being removed so the impact can be monitored in the future. It is also requested that clear opening and closing times are put in place, this giving the Police powers to deal with both civil and policing issues for those person involved in activity within this park area out of these times.

I submit this for your information and action in order for it to be considered at the next Council meeting with the ultimate aim of resolving the first concerns of local residents, but also the wider park users from the estate, which is it intended to serve.

We will continue to work with both the Borough Council and the Bingham Town Council in the future to resolve this and any other issues that arise.

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Meeting at Bingham Police Station re: Wallenfels Playground

On Thursday, 9th June, Inspector Hallam invited local residents, Bingham Town Councillors and members of the Rushcliffe Borough Council Community Safety team to a meeting at Bingham Police Station to discuss issues that have emerged since the Wallenfels Park playground has been installed.

Minutes of the meeting, as taken by a Police Officer present, are attached.

The meeting discussed the concerns of local residents living close to the new playground and those present considered proposals aimed at resolving issues on a basis which may be accepted by all parties. Anecdotal accounts and recorded calls to the Police and other agencies suggest there may have been a rise in incidents of anti-social behaviour and possible illegal activity immediately following the installation of the playground.

Of particular note, were the problems faced by both residents and the Police that may be related to an extremely popular item of equipment, the Devils Island swing, of noise issues and possible misuse.

Any new facility or service requires a period of monitoring and examination of the actual impact on the local community and the local area, and the play equipment contained within the playground is no exception. Following actions suggested at the meeting on 9th June, 2011, it is proposed that:

- 1. This Council acknowledges and supports the recent actions taken by the Police and the South Nottinghamshire Community Safety Partnership and will continue to co-operate with measures to reduce anti-social behaviour and associated issues in and around the Wallenfels playground and other appropriate areas around Bingham.**
- 2. This Council agrees to the disabling of the Devils Island swing for a temporary period of twelve weeks and to be reviewed at Full Council, scheduled for 6th September, 2011.**
- 3. This Council requests the Recreational & Cemetery Committee to conduct an initial impact assessment of the new Wallenfels playground and to advise Full Council whether any interim recommendations are appropriate as soon as possible* (see note.) The Committee will determine an appropriate time-frame for its considerations and advise full Council.**

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Meeting at Bingham Police Station re: Wallenfels Playground
continued.....

- 4. This Council will also support any appropriate consideration and consultation by Rushcliffe Borough Council on any application for a Designated Public Places Order (DPPPO) in and around the vicinity of Wallenfels Park.**

- 5. This Council will also support consideration and consultation by Nottinghamshire County Council on any application for measures to prevent inappropriate parking of vehicles in and around the vicinity of Wallenfels Park.**

*** Note:**

It may be helpful if any interim recommendations that have a financial aspect are included within the budget planning process for the recommended Precept for 2012/2013 financial year to be considered by Policy & Resources Committee (scheduled for 13th December,, 2011) and Full Council (scheduled for 10th January, 2012.)