

**CLEVEDON TOWN COUNCIL**

**SUB-COMMITTEE SALTHOUSE FIELDS TENNIS COURTS**

REPORT TO THE TOWN EVENTS & AMENITIES COMMITTEE OF THE MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 10<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2013 AT 10.00 AM IN THE COMMITTEE ROOM, 44 OLD STREET.

PRESENT: Cllrs J Geldart, L Little, G Watkins  
Mr D Fairchild NSC Seafronts & Events Service Manager

**STC/13/1 APPOINTMENT OF SUB-COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN**

Cllr G Watkins - proposed by Cllr Little seconded by Cllr Geldart. There being no other nominations it was;

**RESOLVED:** To appoint Cllr G Watkins Sub-Committee Chairman for the council year 2013/14.

**STC/13/2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest made at the meeting.

**STC13/3 UPDATE AND REVIEW OF THE CURRENT SITUATION BY MR FAIRCHILD**

Mr Fairchild reported that the situation with regard to the tennis courts had not changed since he attended the TEA Committee. The Licence to Occupy awarded to Salthouse Fields Sports is due to expire on 30 September 2013. Following concern expressed by the Sub-Committee Chairman that the courts are often locked even now after the success of Andy Murray at Wimbledon when more people may wish to play. Mr Fairchild indicated that there had been problems with vandalism although he agreed that perhaps the aspirations of the present company had yet to be reached, he would continue to honour the licence arrangement.

**STC/13/4 TO CONSIDER WHETHER CLEVEDON TOWN COUNCIL COULD WORK WITH NSC ON FUTURE PROPOSALS**

NSC had no long term plans for the tennis courts after September 2013 but Mr Fairchild welcomed the opportunity to work with the Town Council. He suggested the arrangements could be either;

1. A long term lease similar to that for the MUGA. It could possibly be an addition to the MUGA lease. NSC Legal Department would draw this up. This could be accompanied by funding from NSC under the community asset transfer scheme.
2. A Licence to Occupy the tennis courts awarded to the Town Council – length to be determined – short or long.
3. To go out to tender to the private sector to find a private operator to develop the courts in a way that would benefit Clevedon. Possible options for the courts to be drafted by NSC and CTC.

Members emphasised that the Town Council could not take on the tennis courts unless funding is available either through the community asset transfer scheme or in the form of a grant from Sport England. Cllr Watkins had contacted Sport England and established that the last tranche of funding would be allocated in October/November and the tennis courts would appear to meet the criteria. The application form is long and involved (80 pages). Mr Fairchild felt that NSC could

provide landowners consent to the handover of the tennis courts to the Town Council as required by the grant application. The NSC Sports and Active Lifestyle Team may also be able to assist. However a large number of grant applications had been made to Sport England for facilities in North Somerset and NSC had received considerable funding from Sport England.

Decisions would be required as to how the courts would be run – turnstiles etc along with quotations. Mr Fairchild intimated that to re-surface the area and renew the fencing could cost £35,000-£40,000. He also highlighted the cost of business rates - £3,000 pa. He felt if the courts were unlocked there could be vandalism issues. The use of local volunteers by NSC to lock the car park at Salthouse Fields had been short lived as they had been threatened. At present he is replacing the tennis net post which had been snapped at a cost of £3,500. It was therefore important the fencing is secure.

Mr Fairchild understood that usage of the tennis courts had not been high in recent years only for a couple of months of the year and there had not been an outcry from the public that the tennis courts were now locked. He suggested that may be one court could remain for public tennis and alternative all year uses sought for the other courts. In his opinion the existing tennis courts had never been a paying proposition. **RESOLVED:** Mr Fairchild to investigate with the NSC Community Asset Team what funding could be made available to the Town Council in respect of the tennis courts.

**STC/13/5 TO CONSIDER DRAWING UP PLAN OF ACTION**

**RESOLVED:** This would be considered at the next meeting when Members had had the opportunity to investigate the Sport England web site and consider the options available.

**STC13/6 TO CONSIDER THE PURCHASE/GRANT FOR A CONCRETE TABLE TENNIS TABLE PREVIOUSLY AGREED BY THE TEA COMMITTEE**

**RESOLVED:** Cllr Geldart to talk to PING, an organisation that provides concrete table tennis tables, to ascertain whether Clevedon would meet their criteria for a free table at Salthouse Fields.

**STC13/7 TO CONSIDER DRAFT TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE SUB-COMMITTEE**

**RESOLVED:** To await a decision by the TEA Committee as to whether this group should be a Sub-Committee or Working Party.

**STC/13/8 DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

**RESOLVED:** Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> July 2013 at 10.00 am in the Council House.

The meeting finished at 11.20 am

APPROVED AS A TRUE RECORD

CHAIRMAN:.....

DATE: .....