

**AMENITIES MEETING OF THE WITNEY TOWN COUNCIL**

**Held on Monday 14<sup>th</sup> September 2015**

**At 6pm in the Council Chamber, Town Hall**

**Present:**

Councillor: Mrs B J Churchill (Chairman)

Councillors:	Dr S E Bartington	C Holliday
	C Brown	D Harvey
		J S King
	H B Eaglestone	D Temple
		C K Woodward

Non-Committee Members: D Enright, H Chirgwin.

Officers:	Town Clerk	Works and Contracts Supervisor
	Facilities Manager	Committee Officer

A410 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

None received

A411 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillor Mrs Churchill declared a non pecuniary interest in the minutes of the Public Halls Sub Committee (minute A325 refers) as a trustee of the Corn Exchange

Councillors Holliday and Chirgwin both declared a non pecuniary interest in the minutes of the Public Halls Sub Committee (minute A325 refers) as members of the Madley Park Trust

A412 **MINUTES**

**RESOLVED** to adopt and sign as a correct record the minutes of the meeting of the Amenities Committee held on 13 July 2015

There were no matters arising

A413 **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

None

A414 **SPLASH PARK POST INSTALLATION REPORT AND BUDGET UPDATE**

The Facilities Manager submitted a report (previously circulated) providing an update concerning the splash park and adventure playground, along with a budget update on funding project costs.

The following additional information was provided:-

- The algae has now been removed;
- All the publicity for this project has been circulated by the Communications Officer;

- Officers are investigating the provision of an appropriate amount of astro turf around the splash park;
- Three funding requests are still outstanding, but over £11,000 excess funding was raised;
- A substantial amount of WREN funding has been raised. Should the Council have another suitable project in mind, there is approximately 8 months left in which to apply for further funding from this source.

Councillors congratulated all those who had been involved with this very successful scheme. It was noted that Premier Tennis and the café were also proving to be a success, and that Witney had become much more of a destination town over the past few years.

**RECOMMENDED:**

- (1) that the report be noted;
- (2) that the budget snap shot be noted;
- (3) that letters of thanks be sent to all those involved in the project.

A415 **ALLOTMENTS**

The Facilities Manager submitted a report (previously circulated) concerning the Terms and Conditions issued by the Allotment Association.

The Committee considered the Terms and Conditions provided, and in particular the section related to the keeping of livestock on allotments; but felt that this was very much a matter for the Allotment Association.

**RECOMMENDED** to note the revised Terms and Conditions.

[Councillor Enright left the meeting]

A416 **WITNEY LAWN TENNIS CLUB AT WEST WITNEY SPORTS GROUND**

The Facilities Manager submitted a report (previously circulated) concerning a planning application for signage and resurfacing at the Tennis Club.

It was noted that the planning application would be determined by West Oxfordshire District Council. Comments on it had been made by Witney Town Council's Planning Committee.

**RECOMMENDED:** that the report be noted.

A417 **THE LEYS RECREATION GROUND**

The Works and Contracts Supervisor submitted a report (previously circulated) concerning parking issues at the Leys Recreation Ground.

A gate had recently been installed at the top of the access road to the depot following complaints about parked vehicles and increased traffic at the depot and on the access road. Most users had been happy to accept the current situation because it improved public safety. However, a request has been received from the Cricket Club for a parking area to be provided closer to the Pavilion.

The Committee considered this request carefully, but did not feel able to grant it. It felt that suggestions regarding the remarking of parking bays, the installation of a low fence and the provision of a storage contained for use of the Cricket Club were reasonable. The Committee noted that two new cycle racks were to be provided on the Leys close to the Splash Park (and only a short distance from the Pavilion entrance).

The issue of the new footpath across the Leys (as outlined in a report and confidential note from the Town Clerk, previously circulated,) was also considered. It was felt that greater clarity was needed, and the Town Clerk was asked to pursue this further.

**RECOMMENDED:**

- (1) that the report be noted;
- (2) that the request from the Cricket Club for the provision of 30-40 parking spaces be refused;
- (3) that the existing parking bays at the top of the Leys be remarked, and the provision of a small “knee fence” (approximate cost of this £1,000) in appropriate places, be agreed;
- (4) that the Cricket Club may site a small storage container at its own cost, with a maximum length of 10’, of shipping type and painted green; alongside the concrete garage outside the Leys Depot for the purpose of storing their equipment;
- (5) that the Town Clerk writes to Peter Mapson of Bower Mapson regarding the footpath at the Leys Recreation Ground, based on her previous request.

**A418 MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC HALLS SUB COMMITTEE**

The Committee received and considered the minutes of the Public Halls Sub Committee meetings held on 28<sup>th</sup> July and 7<sup>th</sup> September 2015.

One issue was raised; the siting of public defibrillator at the front of Madley Park Hall. The Committee was happy to approve this request.

**RECOMMENDED:**

- (1) that the minutes of the Public Halls Sub Committee be agreed and the recommendations therein approved;
- (2) that the request from Madley Park Residents Association concerning the siting of a defibrillator on the exterior of Madley Park Hall be agreed (at no financial cost to the Council).

**A419 ACCESS TO AMENITY LAND AT VANNER ROAD**

The Facilities Manager submitted a report (previously circulated) concerning a request from a resident to have a rear access gate at his property to facilitate direct access for his children onto amenity land at the rear of his property. A draft licence, as amended by the resident concerned, was also circulated to the Committee.

The Committee considered the licence, with its amendments, but concluded that the agreement should be as originally proposed by Witney Town Council – that is, the proposed amendments from the resident were not accepted.

**RECOMMENDED:**

- (1) that the report and request of the resident be noted;
- (2) that the licence shall be as first issued by Witney Town Council, and that the proposed amendments to it by the resident shall not be accepted or included by Witney Town Council.

A420 **EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC**

**RESOLVED** that, in accordance with section 1(2) of the Public Bodies Act (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, and as extended by Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, the public, including the press, be excluded from the meeting because of the confidential nature of the following business to be transacted

A421 **DRAFT HEADS OF TERMS FOR A LEASE TO PREMIER TENNIS**

The Facilities Manager submitted a confidential report (previously circulated) concerning a proposed lease from Premier Tennis for the Café/Tennis Courts.

**RECOMMENDED:** that the draft Heads of Terms be approved and the lease issued, subject to review by the Council's legal advisors.

A422 **ROWAN COTTAGE/HAILEY ROAD ALLOTMENTS**

The Committee received and considered the confidential report of the Facilities Manager as circulated with the agenda.

**RECOMMENDED:** that the report be noted.

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The meeting ended at 7pm

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CHAIRMAN