

AMENITIES COMMITTEE OF WITNEY TOWN COUNCIL

Held on Monday 2 March 2015

At 6pm in the Council Chamber, Town Hall

Present:

Councillor Mrs B J Churchill (Chairman)

Councillors:	H B Eaglestone	J C Baker
	C Holliday	C K Woodward
Officers:	Town Clerk	Democratic Services Officer
	Facilities Manager	RFO

Also present: Deb Benn (Liven Up the Leys)

A088 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for their absence were received from Councillors Ms M J C Curry and J King.

A089 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest in matters to be discussed at the meeting.

A090 MINUTES

a) **RESOLVED:** that the Minutes of the meeting held on 5 January 2015 be agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

b) There were no matters arising from the minutes.

A091 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

The member of the public did not wish to address the Committee.

A092 PLAY AREAS & AMENITY SPACES UPDATE

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

The Facilities Manager highlighted the fact that Officers had secured a grant of £2,500 from the Town Hall Charity to kick start fundraising for the Park Road play area.

She informed the Committee that the 'Welcome to Witney' flower tubs, which had once been sited at the entrances to the town, had been tidied up and put by the crossing outside St Marys Church to prevent parking on the grass. During a walk round the Leys looking at how to prevent cars accessing areas they shouldn't, ironically an artic lorry on his way to B&Q got lost. As he tried to turn on the fields on the cricket side, he got stuck. A specialist recovery had to be called to pull it out of the mud. Fortunately the costs will be covered and

the repairs are being done today. It was also noted that police patrol cars were using this area as a short cut. The Chairman said she would take this matter up via the NAG. The Facilities Manager advised that she was going to refurbish and install the gate from Langdale Car Park across the top of the road leading up to the Works Depot in order to stop unauthorized access. It was also suggest that perhaps Officers should look at a weight or size restriction along this stretch to stop this happening in the future.

RECOMMENDED:

1. that the report be noted.
2. that the resident at Vanner Rd should pay the full cost of the licence for access over the Council's land.

A093 CEMETERIES UPDATE

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

With regard to the request from a local resident for a handrail at Tower Hill Cemetery, the Facilities Manager highlighted the donation of £500 pledged by County Councillor Laura Price. The Facilities Manager explained in detail the background to this request and why District Councillor Andrew Coles was involved. There was no Town Council budget for this and following a meeting with the Area Steward she understood that Councillor Price had monies not spent for highways related pedestrian safety. The Chairman suggested that a Town Councillor should be present at the meeting which had been arranged.

The Facilities Manager stated that the faculty for the works to repair the wall at St Marys Church had now been received. Stonemasons were awaiting a licence from Highways to start the work.

The Facilities Manager advised that the cost of repairs to the memorials would come back to a future Committee meeting. Some needed immediate action; many required work and one had to be fenced off to prevent further danger. She emphasised that it was detailed work and only health and safety issues would be addressed by the budget.

RECOMMENDED:

1. that the report be noted.
2. that the Facilities Manager invites the Amenities Committee to the site meeting relating to the handrail at the Tower Hill Cemetery;
3. that the cost of repairs to the memorials be brought back to a future Committee meeting.

A094 FINANCIAL REPORT

The Committee received and considered the RFO's report for the third quarter of the financial year circulated with the agenda.

The RFO highlighted the addition of the comments column in the P&L accounts – which all Members agreed was welcomed addition.

RECOMMENDED:

1. that the report be noted.
2. that the remaining unspent budget in respect of Contract Clean/Waste (budget line 4017) be rolled over into 2015/16 to cover some of the waste disposal costs for the Splash Park project

A095 **REPORT FROM THE IN BLOOM WORKING PARTY**

Members received and considered the minutes of the In Bloom Working Party held on 17 February 2015.

It was highlighted that due to the lack of ongoing support the Working Party had suggested taking a year's break from the Thames Valley In Bloom competition to consolidate the situation. Schools in Bloom would still take place.

The Facilities Manager had also circulated a report regarding the 2015 anniversary planting scheme. The proposed designs for the carpet bedding were considered and amended.

RECOMMENDED: that the minutes of the In Bloom Working Party and the report of the Facilities Manager be noted.

A096 **EXCLUSION OF PRESS & PUBLIC**

Due to the commercially sensitive nature of the next item the Committee passed the resolution to go into confidential session, however as a member of the Splash Park Working Party it was agreed that Mrs Deb Benn could remain in the meeting.

RESOLVED: that the Press and Public be excluded from the Meeting in accordance with Section 1 of the Local Government Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.

A097 **REPORT FROM THE SPLASH PARK WORKING PARTY**

Cllr Harry Eaglestone as Chairman of the Splash Park Working Party gave a brief report on the very successful tender meeting, which took 5 hours to scrutinise the tenders in order to come up with the best option for the Leys, to do it justice. There were 3 officers in attendance with Claire leading along with Tara Neilson from District Council, as well as Cllrs Chris Holliday and himself. He drew Members attention to the plans and vision on display. He thanked Deb Benn for all her efforts and hard work on the public fundraising campaign. She was the only member of the public on the working party. He updated the Committee on the donation from Norton's Bar of £1,500.

Recommendations:

1. that the contract for the Splash Park be awarded to SSP Water & Play;
2. that the contract for the Adventure Play area be awarded to Huck's Nets Limited;

3. that the running costs of the Splash Park be included in next year's budget.

A098 **INCLUSION OF THE PRESS & PUBLIC – REVERT BACK INTO OPEN SESSION**

The Committee reverted back into open session. The Facilities Manager advised that she would be issuing a press release on the awarding of the contracts.

The meeting closed at 6.35pm.
