

MEETING OF THE WITNEY TOWN COUNCIL

Held on Wednesday 5 August 2015

At 7pm in the Council Chamber, Town Hall

Present:

Councillor J S King (Chairman)

Councillors: S E Bartington H B Eaglestone
A K Beames A D Harvey
C Brown T J Morris
H W Chirgwin L M Price
B J Churchill C E Reynolds
P J Dorward C K Woodward
J M Doughty

Officers: Town Clerk
Facilities Manager Democratic Services Officer

Also present: 10 members of the public were present including Mike Dove from LibFest and Eric Marshall from the Witney Music Festival

366 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

An apology for their absence was received from Cllrs D S Enright, C Holliday and D Temple

367 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Cllr Harvey declared a non-pecuniary interest as West Oxfordshire District Council's Cabinet Member responsible for Licensing; Cllr Mrs L Price declared a non-pecuniary interest as member of the LibFest Committee and Cllr Mrs B Churchill declared a non-pecuniary interest as her husband was a member of the Witney Photographic Club.

368 **MINUTES**

a) RESOLVED:

1. that the Minutes of the Ordinary meeting held on 24 June 2015 be agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.
2. that the Minutes of the Extra Ordinary meeting held on 6 July 2015 be agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

b) MATTERS ARISING:

In response to a Members question the Town Clerk confirmed that the matter regarding the Town Hall signage would be referred back to the next Policy and Resources meeting.

A Member asked the Facilities Manager if the Witney Lawn Tennis Club had sought the necessary permissions for the tennis court signage at West Witney Sports

Ground and if planning permission had been obtained. The Town Clerk reminded Members of the recommendation reached at the Amenities Meeting on 1 June 2015 – minute A219. The Facilities Manager confirmed that they did need Planning Permission. Members therefore suggested that the Facilities Manager writes to the Tennis Club to request it submits the Planning Permission as soon as possible.

369 **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

Further to his presentation to the Community Services Committee on 20 July 2015, Eric Marshall, representative of the Witney Music Festival was present to address the full Council regarding the issues of damage, weather and the Showman’s Guild. He said the Showman’s Guild were in full support of the Music Festival, along with the Witney Feast.

Mr Marshall spoke of ‘future proofing’ the festival particularly in its 10th Anniversary year in 2016 and considered it to be a partnership with the Town Council which he took very seriously. The Leys was a public asset which would be handed back in good condition which he hoped would give the Council the confidence of their mission statement *Building community through music*, to inspire young people through music. He offered LibFest the opportunity to work with them, a stage for Liberty Baker, to help maximise their cause and minimise cost.

A Member said she had attended both events and loved them both but the issue was the date of the event. Mr Marshall replied that moving the date to June means that the rain fall is the lowest so they can look after the asset of the Leys and they could therefore see no issues with the 18 June 2016.

Michael Dove, representative of LibFest then addressed the Council by saying that he thought by bringing the two dates together within two weeks of each other diluted both events, and he was concerned that getting people to attend both events could be difficult. He said they were both different events and it was date sensitive because of the date of when Liberty died and the nearest Saturday to the date of her death. He said that the Music Festival was not date sensitive as it hadn’t been celebrated consistently at any particularly time of year. He added that LibFest had raised over £11,000 to be split between three charities if this was effected by the weather this would cause huge implications. He then read out a message from Paul Baker thanking the Council for their support and the LibFest team for all hard work and fund raising.

A Member asked both organisers if they have considered other grounds to hold their events. LibFest said the Leys was the focal point of the town and the Music Festival agreed. A Member suggested holding LibFest in the school holiday time to attract more young people to the event. In response a member of LibFest explained that Liberty’s friends needed something positive to focus on around her death, so it had to be that date.

The Chairman brought forward the agenda item relating to this presentation for Members to debate and resolve.

370 **MATTERS REFERRED FROM THE COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE – WITNEY MUSIC FESTIVAL AND LIBFEST**

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

A Member was concerned that it was all about being weather dependent and not date dependent, and was of the opinion that both events should be given the Council's permission to book the Leys as per the requests. A Member disagreed and said that there could be a possibility that either events could be affected by the weather and she didn't want the Council to get the blame for either event not going ahead.

The Facilities Manager said her original report presented to the Community Services Committee contained quite a few factors why these events shouldn't be held so close together. She reminded Members that the Leys was primarily a sports field and recent reports from the Sports Pitch consultants advised of compaction. She also highlighted the issue of the officer support from a small team.

A Member proposed that the Council should agree to both events on the dates they wanted. This was seconded and put to the vote, in which 4 Members voted For and 8 Members Against with 1 abstention, the proposal was defeated. A further proposal was for the Music Festival event to be held on the 11th June – this was unanimously agreed, and that Libfest be held on the 25th June – unanimously agreed.

RESOLVED:

- 1) that the report be noted;
- 2) that the Witney Music Festival be held on 11 June 2016 and Libfest be held on 25 June 2016.

The Members of the public and Cllr A Beames left at 7.45pm

371 **WITNEY COMMUNITY POLICING ISSUES & VANDALISM**

- a) Witney Neighbourhood Update – There was no one present from the Neighbourhood Policing Team to update Members, as they were undertaking an operation at the Leys and Country Park.
- b) Vandalism Report – the Facilities Manager updated Members on the vandalism and anti-social behaviour which had occurred that week at the Leys, and as a result there had been a police presence. However this had moved the problem to the Country Park. A Park Attendant had now been appointed and would be working with the police on these current issues. Members were pleased with this prompt appointment. The Facilities Manager elaborated on the hours and areas the Park Attendant would cover.

RESOLVED: that the report be noted

372 **CIVIC ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- a) The Council received and considered a list of recent events that the Mayor had attended.

RESOLVED: that the report be noted

373 **MINUTES OF COMMITTEES AND SUB-COMMITTEES**

a) Planning and Development Committee of 23 June and 14 July 2015

RESOLVED: that the minutes of the Planning & Development Committee as detailed be received and any recommendations therein approved.

b) Amenities Committee Minutes of 13 July 2015

RESOLVED: that the minutes of the Amenities Committee as detailed be received and any recommendations therein approved.

c) Public Halls Sub-Committee Minutes 28 July 2015

RESOLVED: that the minutes of the Public Halls Sub-Committee as detailed be received and any recommendations therein approved.

d) Community Services Committee Minutes 20 July 2016

RESOLVED: that the minutes of the Community Services Committee as detailed be received and any recommendations therein approved.

e) Policy & Resources Committee Minutes 27 July 2015

A Member wanted to know how quickly the CCTV would be installed at the Leys – the Facilities Manager advised that it would be as soon as practically possible.

RESOLVED: that the minutes of the Policy & Resources Committee as detailed be received and any recommendations therein approved.

374 **MATTER REFERRED FROM THE AMENITIES & COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE**

The Council received and considered the report of the Facilities Manager as circulated with the agenda. She had been asked to compile a list of projects for the purposes of requesting S106 developer contributions as part of the planning consultation process.

A Member requested that new Cotswold stone planters be added to the list, to be situated under the 'Welcome to Witney' signs

RESOLVED: that the report be noted with the addition of the Cotswold Stone Planters to the list.

375 **SUPPORTED TRANSPORT (SUBSIDISED BUSES & DIAL-A-RIDE) CONSULTATION**

The Council received and considered the consultation documentation from Oxfordshire County Council as circulated with the agenda.

Members discussed the implications of losing some of the bus services and the impact it had on the community.

RESOLVED: that the Town Clerk arranges a meeting of the Consultation Working Party in order to formulate a response on behalf of the Town Council.

376 **GAMBLING ACT 2005 POLICY STATEMENT REVIEW**

The Council received and considered the consultation documentation from West Oxfordshire District Council as circulated with the agenda.

RESOLVED: that the Town Clerk arranges a meeting of the Consultation Working Party in order to formulate a response on behalf of the Town Council.

377 **HEALTH AND SAFETY UPDATE**

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

RESOLVED: that the report be noted.

378 **SEALING OF DOCUMENTS**

RESOLVED: that the following be noted

No. **Details**

77 Minor works building contract with contractors design 2011: SSP Water & Play for or the Leys Splashpad, in duplicate.

379 **EXCLUSION OF PRESS & PUBLIC**

RESOLVED: That in accordance with section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (admissions 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.

A member of the public left at 8.23pm

380 **LANGDALE HALL**

The Town Clerk updated the Members on the situation with regard to the sale of Langdale Hall in her confidential report, which included the details of the original top three offers.

RESOLVED: that the Town Clerk's verbal report be noted and she proceeds as instructed by the Council in the confidential appendix attached to these minutes

The meeting closed at 8.29pm.
