



Other aspects of the Leys, namely water mains and a vehicle access plan were also still being progressed.

The Chairman and Cllr Holliday were liaising with Base 33 and looking at projects they could be included in – i.e. partnership working, incorporating litter picking and preventing vandalism.

A397 **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

There were no members of the public present.

A398 **RANGERS REPORT**

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

The report contained a long and detailed list of vandalism. The Ranger had made efforts to ensure that crimes were reported via the 101 service, although he had been advised that trees could not be reported as vandalism. It was agreed that officers should keep a record of tree damage.

Members were pleased to note that the Ranger had liaised successfully with local residents, especially around King George V playing field, and that he had encouraged them to call 101 to report crimes themselves.

Members were appalled and shocked at the amount of vandalism and reiterated that residents needed to be made aware of how high the rectifications costs were. They (should be "residents" and not They? I think the comments referred to residents being pleased) were pleased that a Ranger had been reinstated to enable them to know what is happening where and when. Cllr Mrs Churchill, as the Chairman of NAG, was concerned that calling 101 did not appear to be as helpful as it should be and agreed to raise this at the next meeting of NAG. A Member commented that the PCSOs had not appeared to be so much in evidence this summer as they had been in previous years.

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

A399 **GROUNDS MAINTENANCE LAND PLANS REPORT**

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

The Facilities Manager advised that she was working through the grounds maintenance specification for the upcoming tendering of the contract. Whilst liaising with WODC and OCC it had become evident that the Town Council was maintaining areas of land which were not in its ownership. These areas were highlighted on the

maps accompanying the report. The Facilities Manager outlined the options for handling these areas of land in future and requested a Committee decision on how to proceed. She also advised that should it be agreed that the Town Council continued to maintain these areas, they would form part of the new specification for the grounds maintenance contract.

**RECOMMENDED:**

- 1) that the report be noted.
- 2) that Witney Town Council continues to maintain the areas of land, as detailed in the report, subject to negotiating a satisfactory maintenance fee with the landowners.

A400 **LEYS WATER SUPPLY COSTS**

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

The Facilities Manager explained the report and the need for a good water supply for the various activities on the Leys and for the new splash park.

**RECOMMENDED:**

- 1) that the report be noted.
- 2) that the works to replace the Leys water mains, as recommended in the report, be agreed.

A401 **PLAY AREA REPORT**

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

The Facilities Manager highlighted the Park Road draft plan for a community garden, which was now out for consultation (closing date 30 September). A report detailing the conclusions would be available at the next meeting of this committee. The Facilities Manager was also hoping to have a list of people willing to be involved in the project and would then look to arrange a meeting with others who could give help and advice on promoting community groups and actions, i.e. fund raising.

With regard the Fieldmere Close, the Facilities Manager commented that she was disappointed that this had not be opened in time for the summer holidays, however, an open day was being planned for the end of the month.

The Facilities Manager reported that the last member of the community group Liven-up The Leys had stepped down. She was looking into other avenues for community

help and also liaising with OPFA. She had been able to pass details of some interested residents to Cllr C Holliday. She was also pleased to report that Witney Rotary Club were keen to be involved.

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

A402 **LAND PURCHASE REPORT**

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

Following the last meeting, several committee members had visited 185 Thorney Leys to identify the parcel of land the resident wished to purchase.

The report also contained details of further requests for the purchase of land, from the residents at 53, 55, 57 and 59 Thorney Leys.

The Town Clerk again advised that it was Council policy to look at individual requests on their own merits.

The Committee considered each of the two requests individually, being mindful of the implications of selling Council land to individual residents, taking into consideration what they could do with the land and whether such a sale would prompt further requests from other residents.

**RECOMMENDED:**

- 1) that the report be noted.
- 2) that the two requests for the purchase of land, as detailed in the report, are **denied** and that the Town Council continues to look at each request on its own merits.

A403 **CEMETERIES REPORT**

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

Members noted the situation with regard to memorial trees at Windrush Cemetery and the oak tree of particular concern in the e-mail attached to the report. The Facilities Manager advised that at present there was no cohesive policy for the provision and maintenance of memorial trees and benches in its cemeteries, and that she would like to formulate such a policy for inclusion in the new cemetery brochure.

The Facilities Manager outlined an idea for offering relatives space in the cemetery on lease for a specified amount of time, however, this was not a fully thought out option at the moment.

The report also gave details on the current position with regard to the repairs to the wall at the front of St Mary's Church.

**RECOMMENDED:**

- 1) that the report be noted.
- 2) that the tree, as detailed in the e-mail attached to the report, be replaced.
- 3) that the Facilities Manager formulates a policy for the provision and maintenance of memorial trees and benches.

A404 **FINANCIAL REPORT**

The Committee received and considered the report of the Town Clerk/RFO, as circulated with the agenda.

The Town Council commented that the report was presented in a new, agreed, format, giving quarterly details. Further work would be carried out to apportion the cost centre 201 – Recreation General to the various recreation sites. The new RFO would also be looking at splitting the accounts to be reflective of the split in the Leisure & Recreation Committee at the beginning of the municipal year.

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

A405 **CHRISTMAS LIGHTS**

The Chairman updated the committee on the Christmas Lights events and the problems relating to the proposed Christmas Market on Church Green. Due to the insurance implications this was not viable for Church Green this year. However, the Working Party was looking at another site and had confirmed the funfair, Advent fair in Langdale Hall and several other activities.

**RECOMMENDED:**

- 1) that the minutes the of the meetings of the Christmas Lights Working Party held on 17 June, 14 and 28 August 2014 be noted.
- 2) that the Christmas Lights Working Party be given delegated authority to secure events for the Christmas Lights weekend.

A406 **ALLOTMENTS**

The Committee received and considered the report of the Town Clerk, and relevant correspondence, as circulated.

The report contained a request from the Allotment Association for the creation of parking spaces at Lakeside Allotments, and a request to purchase land used as part Lakeside allotments by an adjoining landowner.

Members were concerned with regard to the loss of allotment gardens, which would result from agreement to either of these requests.

**RECOMMENDED:**

- 1) that the report be noted.
- 2) that Members of the Committee visit Lakeside Allotments prior to their next scheduled meeting, and any decision be deferred to the next meeting of this committee.

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The meeting closed at 7.10pm

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Chairman