

MEETING OF THE WITNEY TOWN COUNCIL

Held on Monday 11 February 2013

At 7pm in the Council Chamber, Town Hall

Present

Councillor H Eaglestone (Chairman)

Councillors:	Mrs J C Baker	Ms C Curry
	A K Beames	AD Harvey
	Mrs B J Churchill	D A Snow
Officers:	Town Clerk	Democratic Services Officer
	Deputy Town Clerk	Facilities Manager

1 member of the press

073 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for their absence were received from Councillors R F N Curry, Mrs S Davies, P J Dorward, D S Enright, J S King, T J Morris, B Woodruff and C K Woodward.

074 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

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

075 **MINUTES**

RESOLVED: that the Minutes of the meeting held on 3 December 2012 be agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

076 **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

There were no members of the public present for this item.

077 **WITNEY COMMUNITY POLICING ISSUES**

The Town Clerk reported that the police had recently gone through changes in personnel and that she would be meeting with new Inspector shortly.

Councillor Mrs Churchill, as Chairman of NAG, advised Council of the issues reported to NAG. Particularly that more burglaries were occurring in this area, especially metal thefts. The police were also operating an experimental scheme of vehicle recognition across local counties.

The Town Clerk confirmed that the police were holding "Have your Say" days regularly under the Undercroft.

A Member enquired whether there was any further progress with regard to the vandalism to the War Memorial. The Facilities Manager was pleased to report that O G Stonemasonry had offered to undertake the repairs free of charge. Members were very grateful for this offer and wished their thanks to be passed on.

A Member notified the Council of a scam which had affected her husband's business. The Members agreed that the Council should liaise with the police and the local press to make more people aware of this type of incident.

078 **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Members received and considered the details of the events attended by the Town Mayor, as circulated with the agenda.

RESOLVED: that the report be noted

079 **MINUTES OF COMMITTEES**

a) Planning & Development Committee of 8 January and 5 February 2013

It was confirmed that the minutes of the recent Traffic Advisory Committee meeting would be presented to the next Planning & Development Committee meeting on 19 February 2013.

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

b) Leisure & Recreation Committee of 14 January 2013

In answer to a Member's enquiry, the Facilities Manager explained that the Excel Tennis proposal was for court hire only in order to run their tennis academy.

A Member queried the recommendations under L018 – Paddling Pool at the Leys. She commented that she was aware of planning applications which had included areas of the Leys, the road to the works depot in particular. She considered that these should be investigated before decisions are made on the paddling pool area. The Town Clerk commented that as part of the Council's response to the consultation on these developments section 106 funding had been requested but she had been advised by the District Council Planners that this had not been successful due to the difficulties of the site.

Members noted the presentation regarding St Mary's Churchyard, made under public participation at the Special Finance & General Purposes Committee meeting held earlier in the evening.

RESOLVED:

- 1) that with regard to the recommendations under L018, recommendations (2), (3) and (4) be referred back to the Leisure & Recreation Committee to investigate any planning issues which could affect the Leys Recreation Ground.
- 2) that the issues regarding the maintenance of St Mary's Churchyard be referred to the Leisure & Recreation Committee.
- 3) that subject to the above, the minutes of the Leisure & Recreation Committee as detailed be received and any recommendations approved.

c) Public Halls Committee of 17 December 2012 and 21 January 2013

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

- d) Finance & General Purposes Committee of 28 January 2013 and verbal report of Special meeting held earlier in the evening.

The Town Clerk gave a verbal report on the Special Finance & General Purposes held earlier in the evening:

- 1) The application for a grant had been agreed in principle, subject to further consultation with the Public Halls Chairman and the Facilities Manager.
- 2) The revised budget and amendment to the estimates had been agreed.
- 3) The Committee had approved the spending under S137.
- 4) The precept had been formally recommended.
- 5) Staffing matters had been discussed and agreed.

RESOLVED: that the minutes of the Finance & General Purposes Committee as detailed be received and any recommendations approved.

PRECEPT FOR 2013/14

Members noted the recommendation from the Special Finance & General Purposes Committee meeting held earlier in the evening.

RESOLVED: that the Town Clerk be authorised to sign and serve a precept on the West Oxfordshire District Council, in accordance with the appropriate provisions of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended), requiring the District Council to pay the Town Council the sum of £1,132,036 in respect of Council Tax for the town during the financial year 2013/14.

080 **SEALING OF DOCUMENTS**

Members noted the document sealed since the last meeting

No.76 Deed of Dedication Burwell Recreation Ground. Fields in Trust – Queen Elizabeth II (in duplicate)

RESOLVED: that the seal of the Council be affixed to any documents arising from decisions taken by this meeting of the Council.

The meeting closed at 7.25pm

Chairman