

**LEISURE AND RECREATION COMMITTEE OF THE WITNEY TOWN COUNCIL**

**Held on Monday 21 May 2012**

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

**Present**

Councillor: C K Woodward (Chairman)

Councillors:	Mrs J C Baker	Mrs S E Davies
	A K Beames	H B Eaglestone
Officers:	Town Clerk	Democratic Services Officer
	Amenities Manager	

**L212 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

An apology for his absence was received from Councillor R F N Curry.

**L213 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillor C K Woodward declared a personal interest in agenda item 7.8.1. – As a governor of Witney Community Primary School.

**L214 ELECTION OF VICE CHAIRMAN**

**RESOLVED:** that Councillor Mrs S Davies be appointed Vice Chairman of this Committee for the ensuing municipal year.

**L215 MINUTES**

**RESOLVED:** that the minutes of the meeting of this Committee held on 5 March 2012 be agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

**L216 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

Minute L100 – West Witney Sports Ground – Witney Tennis Club - The Town Clerk advised that she still had no definite answers from the solicitors. She was aware that the Tennis Club were keen to progress this, however, she stressed that the legal requirements did need to be satisfied. The Amenities Manager confirmed that the conifer, which had shaded the tennis courts, had now been felled.

Minute L104 – Queen Elizabeth II Fields Challenge – The Amenities Manager had been notified that the nomination of Burwell Recreation Ground had been accepted and was progressing to the next stage.

Minute L107 – Diamond Jubilee Working Party - The Town Clerk confirmed that the risk assessment for the competition winners' trip to London had been received. She would be forwarding this to the schools for agreement.

Minutes L109 – Town Centre Forum – The Amenities Manager updated on the refurbishment of the Market Square.

**L217 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

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

**L218 COMMITTEE VISION**

The Town Clerk advised that this was as a result of her report to Council to give the Committees an opportunity to discuss future projects for the coming year and beyond, for inclusion in the Council plan and corporate performance plan.

Members were advised that their ideas and thoughts could be brought to the next meeting. Ideas for consideration raised at this meeting were:

- ◆ West Witney Sports Ground. The Town Clerk advised that she would be arranging a meeting of the West Witney Sports Ground Working Party soon, and would be also inviting the Council's advisers Roger Brockington and Peter Barefoot to a future meeting to give their advice on all the issues.

Members considered that a tour of the sports ground would be advantageous. The Town Clerk confirmed that both a feasibility study and business plan had been undertaken in the past. A Member commented that he had concerns arising from the building survey. A Member suggested that facilities should be available for adult athletics.

- ◆ Allotments, search for land for additional site. The Town Clerk advised that land for allotments was included in the North Curbridge development and that some of the ring fenced money would be required to develop the site as allotments.

**RECOMMENDED:**

- 1) that the above items be included in the Committee Vision.
- 2) that Members bring any further ideas and thoughts for consideration at the next meeting of the committee.

**L219 AMENITIES - PROGRESS ON IMPROVEMENTS PROGRAMME AND REPAIRS SINCE THE LAST MEETING**

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

The Committee noted that 10 schools had accepted entry into the Schools Challenge 2012. In her report, the Amenities Manager was requesting two Members to participate in the judging. She advised that a Member had already volunteered; however, the Committee Members considered that the judging should be undertaken by members of the Leisure & Recreation Committee.

A Member commented on the amount of graffiti on telephone boxes and he was advised that officers at West Oxfordshire District Council were liaising with BT on this matter.

**RECOMMENDED:**

- 1) that the report be noted.
- 2) that Councillors Mrs J C Baker and Mrs S Davies be appointed as judges for the School in Bloom Challenge 2012.
- 3) that Councillor C Woodward be appointed as reserve judge in the event that one of the above is unable to attend once the judging dates are finalised.

**L220 BURWELL DRIVE -TREES**

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

The report contained details of a complaint relating to a Norway maple on amenity land at the rear of residents' properties. The Amenities Manager confirmed that the recommended work would remove all the overhanging branches and reduce the crown.

The residents were also requesting permission to plant a tree in celebration of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee. The Amenities Manager confirmed in her report that the variety of tree, planting requirements and planting location would be provided and agreed by officers. It was also suggested that the residents should be responsible for watering, etc.

**RECOMMENDED:**

- 1) that the report be noted.
- 2) that the work advised by the Council's arboricultural contractor be undertaken.
- 3) that this tree be inspected again next year.
- 4) that the residents be given to permission to plant a tree, subject to agreement with the Amenities Manager.

**L221 CHESTNUT CLOSE – BOUNDARY FENCE**

The Committee received and considered the correspondence, as circulated with the agenda.

The Amenities Manager advised that she had been unable to find references to the provision of the fence in the Council's minutes. A Member commented that any responsibility accepted in 1987/8 should not set a precedent. A Member queried whether there would be any local groups which would provide grants. The Town Clerk confirmed that there was no money available in the current budget.

**RECOMMENDED:**

- 1) that the correspondence be noted.
- 2) that the resident be requested to produce her deeds to identify responsibility for the boundary fence.

**L222 CHRISTMAS LIGHTS WORKING PARTY**

The Committee received and considered the minutes of the Working Party held on 4 April and 16 May 2012, as circulated.

A Member commented that they had concerns regarding the continuation of the Best Decorated House Competition.

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

**L223 DIAMOND JUBILEE WORKING PARTY**

The Committee received and considered the minutes of the Working Party held on 21 March, 11 April and 2 May 2012, as circulated with the agenda.

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

L224 **BMX WORKING PARTY**

The Committee received and considered the minutes of the Working Party held on 4 April 2012, as circulated with the agenda.

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

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The meeting closed at 7.12pm

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Chairman