

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

**Held on Monday 9 July 2012**

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

**Present**

Councillor: C K Woodward (Chairman)

|               |                                      |                             |
|---------------|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Councillors:  | Mrs J C Baker                        | P J Dorward                 |
|               | A K Beames                           | H B Eaglestone              |
|               | Mrs S E Davies                       |                             |
| Officers:     | Town Clerk                           | Democratic Services Officer |
|               | Amenities Manager                    |                             |
| Also present: | Mr Davidson, West Witney Tennis Club |                             |

L304 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

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

L305 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

No declarations of interest were made in matters to be considered at the meeting.

L306 **MINUTES**

**RESOLVED:** that the minutes of the meeting of this Committee held on 21 May 2012 be agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

L307 **MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

Minute L221 – Chestnut Close boundary fence – The Town Clerk confirmed that the resident had supplied a copy of the deeds and she was taking advice from the solicitors.

L308 **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

Mr Davidson spoke with regard to the request for the resurfacing of the tennis courts at West Witney Sports Ground. He commented that in the agreement between the Tennis Club and the Town Council, the courts should be resurfaced every 12 years, although in 2007 only remedial work was carried out. An independent review had established that the courts needed resurfacing and this had been agreed at the Leisure & Recreation Committee meeting in March. He considered that the prevarication with regard to the whole site was detrimental to the club. Having a contract to resurface the courts every 12 years, and the decision agreed earlier in the year, this should be taken forward.

In answer to a Member's question, Mr Davidson confirmed that the courts were used throughout the year, with a change over period in September from the summer to winter leagues, which would be the best time for the courts to be out of action.

Mr Davison agreed that the removal of the tree had improved the courts and would be especially beneficial in winter.

The Town Clerk confirmed that the solicitor was looking at the 2003 agreement, however, she commented that it was part of a bigger issue, being the West Witney site as a whole.

Mr Davidson confirmed that the members of the tennis club did not have to be members of the Sports & Social Club. He commented that he would be grateful for some indication of a decision. He was advised that any decision made at this meeting would be subject to ratification by the Finance & General Purposes Committee and ultimately Council.

(Mr Davidson left the meeting at this point, being 6.15pm)

**L309 COMMITTEE VISION**

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

A Member commented that there was a small amount of section 106 monies remaining which had been allocated to Madley Park for play facilities and considered that a review of youth facilities and the play area on Madley Park, with continued improvements to the area, should be included as a “committee vision”.

With regard to the allotments and the search for land for an additional site, as agreed for inclusion at the last meeting, the Town Clerk confirmed that there was an allocation for allotment land in the Curbridge development and queried whether Members still wanted to find more land. She commented that part of the ring-fenced allotment monies would be used to develop and layout the Curbridge site. Members expressed their desire to continue to look for additional allotment land.

Members noted the comments in the Town Clerk’s report with regard to the West Witney Sports Ground and improvements to other sports sites around the town.

**RECOMMENDED:**

- 1) that the report be noted.
- 2) that a review of the play facilities on Madley Park, especially with regard to the provide for young teenagers, be included in the committee vision, together with a commitment to continue to improve these areas.
- 3) that the desire to find additional allotment land is retained as a committee vision until such time as the allotments on the new Curbridge development are established when this decision should be reviewed.

**L310 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 Amenities Manager thanked everyone (including Members and Rotary) who had been involved in the judging of the Schools Challenge.

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

**L311 FINANCIAL REPORT**

The Committee received and considered the report of the Town Clerk, as circulated with the agenda. She asked Members to consider what future financial information they would require to assist them with realising the Committee vision and its future objectives.

**RECOMMENDED:**

- 1) that the report be noted.

- 2) that separate cost centres should be established for West Witney Sports Ground and the other recreations grounds.

**L312 DIAMOND JUBILEE WORKING PARTY**

The Committee received and considered the minutes of the Working Party held on 23 May 2012, as circulated with the agenda.

Members were pleased to receive the story of Witney Celebrations for the Diamond Jubilee and thanked Councillor Ms C Curry for preparing this.

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

**L313 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC**

**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.

**L314 WEST WITNEY SPORTS GROUND**

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

With regard to the condition report, Members considered that there should be a vision for the future before spending any money. There were concerns regarding the peppercorn rents and the Town Clerk explained the current situation with regard to the covenants,

Members noted the suggestion in the letter from Alder King with the recommendation that a five year plan is adopted in order to regularise everything and get leases in place (a medium term strategy).

The Town Clerk confirmed that West Witney Sports & Social and the associated users of the site had been encouraged to provide their forward vision within the timelines and subsequently to research for grants.

**RECOMMENDED:**

- 1) that the minutes of the meeting of the West Witney Sports Ground Working Party held on 14 June 2012, as presented, be noted.
- 2) that the Town Clerk invites Peter Barefoot and Roger Brockington to attend a meeting of the West Witney Sports Ground Working Party.
- 3) that a decision on the resurfacing of the tennis courts be deferred to the above meeting.

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The meeting closed at 7.25pm

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Chairman