

**AMENITIES MEETING OF THE WITNEY TOWN COUNCIL**

**Held on Monday 6 March 2017**

**At 6.05pm in the Council Chamber, Town Hall**

**Present:**

Councillor: Cllr D Temple (Chairman)

Councillors: H B Eaglestone J S King  
P J Dorward T J Morris  
C Holliday

Officers: Town Clerk Operations Officer  
Democratic Services Officer

**A099 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Cllr S Bartington apologised for her absence.

**A100 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

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

**A101 MINUTES**

- a) **RESOLVED:** that the minutes of the meeting held on 9 January 2017 be agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman;
- b) **MATTERS ARISING:** there were no matters arising to be discussed at the meeting.

**A102 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

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

**A103 OPERATIONAL REPORT - PROGRESS ON IMPROVEMENTS AND REPAIRS SINCE LAST MEETING**

The Committee received and considered the report of the Operations Officer as circulated with the agenda. He also circulated photographs of the recently screened depot. A letter of thanks had been received from the resident who had originally requested this.

The Operations Officer needed to have dates for the opening and closing of the Splash Park so he could let the maintenance company know. Officers recommended opening for Easter School holidays and Closing the weekend before Witney Feast.

The Leys Tennis Courts needed some work and he would obtain prices for this.

Parking spaces needed marking out at West Witney Sports Ground. This was not on the Grounds Maintenance Contract but the Operations Officer was confident that Staff would be able to carry this out.

He reported that unfortunately the laurels planted as part of the new/re sited war memorial had been pulled up several times. If this continued further action such as temporary fencing may have to be considered.

**RECOMMENDED:**

1. that the report be noted;
2. that the Splash Park be run as per last year – turned on for the Easter School Holidays and run until 4 September;
- 3.
4. that a quote be sought for re colour coating and repairing the Leys Tennis Courts;
5. that West Witney Sports Ground Car park be re lined by Council staff.

**A104 HAILEY ROAD ALLOTMENTS – WALL**

Members received and considered the report of the Operations Officer and discussed the quotations received for the repair of the allotment wall.

The Operations Officer had seen an example of the work of the company who had supplied the least expensive quote and it looked good. The Leader had also seen work by the Company and he confirmed the Operations Officer's impression. There was the added benefit that the company used the existing materials.

**RECOMMENDED:**

1. that the report be noted;
2. that the quote by Blenheim Dry Stone Walling Ltd be accepted.

**A105 LEYS RECREATION GROUND – CONSTRUCTION OF NEW PATHWAY AND ADDITIONAL PARKING**

The Committee received and considered the report of the Operations Officer as circulated with the agenda. There followed a discussion on which paths were considered to be necessary and the associated quotations.

**RECOMMENDED:**

1. that the report be noted;
2. that the existing top road footpath be repaired;
3. that a new path along the top of the football pitch to the exit for Sainsbury's be constructed;
4. that G and I Ayres be selected as the contractor

Cllrs Holliday and Morris asked that it be recorded that they voted against recommendation 3.

A106 **LEYS RECREATION GROUND – PREMIER TENNIS – PROPOSED PARTNERSHIP FOR NEW MINI GOLF COURSE**

The Committee received and considered correspondence from Premier Tennis, concerning a proposed partnership for a new mini golf course. The Town Clerk reminded members of previous changes to the original financial agreement last year and subsequent requests for payment. She also highlighted the current state of the mini golf course, along with the earlier consideration of the maintenance to the tennis courts at the cost of the Council.

Members discussed the proposal but had concerns. It was felt that instead of accepting this, the lease should be renegotiated to reflect the operational changes which have occurred as the facility had developed over the past 2 years.

**RECOMMENDED:**

1. that the correspondence be noted;
2. that the proposal be not accepted at the present time and that instead the Council renegotiates with Premier Tennis Club a full repairing lease to reflect the operational changes.

A107 **FINANCIAL REPORT**

The Committee received and considered the report of the RFO as circulated with the agenda. A member commented that it was pleasing to note that the efficiency savings looked for had been made and the Committee was currently operating below budget.

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

*Cllr Holliday left the meeting at 6.44pm.*

A108 **PARK ROAD PLAY AREA**

The Committee received and considered the report of the Town Clerk circulated prior to the meeting. She reported the legal advice she had received indicated that as the Town Council had occupied the land for some years, there could be some right of ownership. A member commented that he felt the Council should apply to WODC for a certificate of lawfulness.

*Cllr Holliday re-entered the meeting at 6.47pm.*

A member queried the installation of a new concrete path that he had seen leading to the play area. The Operations Officer advised that this must have been put in by Cottsway HA. All members agreed that it was worth pursuing the land through legal routes to ensure it was retained as a play area and protect it from development.

**RECOMMENDED:**

1. that the report be noted;

2. that the Town Clerk on behalf of the Council pursues ownership of the land through legal routes.

A109 **MINUTES OF SUB COMMITTEES**

a) Oxlease Working Party – 2 February 2017

Members received and considered the minutes of the Oxlease Working Party held on 2 February 2017.

**RECOMMENDED:** that the minutes be noted and the recommendations contained therein agreed.

b) Cemeteries and Closed Churchyards Sub Committee – 1 March 2017

Members received and considered the minutes of the Cemeteries and Closed Churchyards Sub Committee held on 1 March 2017.

**RECOMMENDED:** that the minutes be noted and the recommendations contained therein agreed.

c) Public Halls Sub Committee – 6 March 2017

The Committee received and considered a verbal report from the Chairman of the Committee of the meeting held earlier that evening.

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

A110 **STRI REPORT ON BOWLS GREENS AND CRICKET SQUARES**

The Committee received and considered the report of the Operations Officer as circulated with the agenda. The STRI report stated that the land was getting worse year on year and suggested that the current specification needed to be rewritten as recommendations had changed. The Operations Officer had asked the Grounds Maintenance Contractors for a quote – it was not as high-spec as recommended in the STRI report but they were confident it would be enough to bring the ground back up to standard.

The Town Clerk highlighted the income received from these facilities as opposed to the additional expenditure, and the subsidy the Council made. It was therefore proposed that a working party be set up to look at hire charges for the grounds. The Operations Officer asked if it could be made clear to the clubs how much the Council was investing in the ground. It was agreed that this could be included in the annual letter to the clubs.

**RECOMMENDED:**

1. that the report be noted;
2. that the additional work and expenditure to the bowls greens and cricket squares be approved;

3. that a working party to review hire charges for the sports grounds be set up, with volunteers invited at the next Full Council meeting.

A111 **LAKE AND COUNTRY PARK – MANAGEMENT OPTIONS PROPOSAL BY CONTINENTAL LANDSCAPES**

Following last year's recommendation to formulate a management plan for the Lake and Country Park, the new grounds contractors had been invited to submit a report on the future management of this facility. The report had been circulated with the agenda.

Given the complexities within the report it was proposed to defer this item to a future meeting of the new Sports and Recreation Committee.

**RECOMMENDED:**

1. that the report be noted;
2. that the proposal is deferred to a future meeting of the new Sports and Recreation Committee.

A112 **EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND 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.

A113 **PROPOSAL FROM EXTREME LEISURE**

The Committee received and considered a proposal from Extreme Leisure as circulated with the agenda.

**RECOMMENDED:** that Extreme be invited to make a presentation to the Council, after speaking with the Chairman of the Public Halls Sub-Committee and West Witney Sports Ground Sub-Committee and making a site visit.

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The meeting closed at 7.17pm.

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Chairman

