

SPORTS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE MEETING OF THE WITNEY TOWN COUNCIL

Held on Monday 10 July 2017

At 6.00pm in the Council Chamber, Town Hall

Present:

Councillor: S E Bartington (Chairman)

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

Officers: Town Clerk Operations and Estates Officer
Democratic Services Officer Asst Ops and Estates Officer

R328 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

An apology for his absence was received from Cllr Woodward.

R329 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

R330 MINUTES

a) **RESOLVED:** that the minutes of the meeting held on 22 May 2017 be agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman;

b) **MATTERS ARISING:**

Minute R240, B (5): The Town Clerk advised a meeting had been held with OCC Highways and Thames Valley Police. OCC were not keen on traffic calming as they felt it would not calm the speed. To apply for a TRO (Traffic Regulation Order) would take 12 months and may require some financial input from the Town Council. The Town Clerk would speak to the relevant WODC cabinet member. In the short term Highways was prepared to put a white line and keep clear signage at the entrance to the car park. This would be monitored to see how it went. It was hoped that this could be done in conjunction with other lining being done in the town. However the white lines were not enforceable. The Town Clerk would need to speak to WODC about enforcement for any potential yellow lines.

Minute R240: The Chairman asked if there had been any further communication with McDonalds as she had been in touch and they had been keen to do a community event. The Town Clerk explained that the Committee's intention had been to ask McDonalds to do an extended litter pick and bin installation on a permanent basis rather than as a one of event. A letter had been sent to the Manager.

Minute R242 (2): The Town Clerk reported she had communicated the Committee's request for a feasibility study on Raleigh Crescent play area to the District Council's Leisure Manager. He had not understood why this was necessary as there was S106 money ready to be spent on new play equipment. A member reported drug use at the park and it was agreed this should be taken up at the Community Resilience Group.

A member commented that nothing could now be done as the resolution had been approved by Full Council and standing orders meant that the Committee must wait 6 months before the resolution could be overturned. A member asked if the Town Council would have to maintain grass cutting and bin emptying and the Town Clerk replied that it may be possible to ask for a caveat in the lease that the Town Council would take on the area but not grass cutting or bin emptying. A member asked if the S106 money could be lost. The Town Clerk said she believed it was ring fenced.

The Town Clerk reminded members that if they wanted to overturn the resolution 4 councillors could put a motion to Full Council.

The Town Clerk advised that WODC were obtaining a tree survey for Unterhaching Park.

R331 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

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

R332 OPERATIONAL REPORT – PROGRESS ON REPAIRS AND IMPROVMENTS SINCE LAST MEETING

The Committee received and considered the report of the Operations and Estates Officer which updated members on work done since the previous meeting. He added that work to install the new footpath at The Leys should be complete by the end of the week.

He reported that the main item of outstanding work was the over seeding of The Leys, but current conditions were not favourable for this work. The new recycling bins had arrived after a long delay. Oxlease play equipment had been ordered and was due for installation in the last week of the summer holidays – to tie in with the WREN Grant timing requirements.

A member asked if the over seeding at The Leys might not be done. The Operations and Estates Officer replied that the weather was not good for over seeding as it needed water to germinate and establish a root base. This was why it had been proposed to do such work earlier next year.

The Town Clerk added that a woman had informed the Council that she had broken her ankle at Moorland Road park and had contacted a solicitor to make a claim against the

Council. The Asst. Operations and Estates Officer and the Foreman had inspected the area but had found nothing in terms of holes or divots.

RECOMMENDED: that the report be noted.

R333 **ALLOTMENTS**

The Committee received and considered a letter from the Allotments Association asking for a replacement fence along the Farmer's Close side of the Hailey Road allotments and also a gate for disabled access. The Operations and Estates Officer agreed that the fence was in bad condition, but was unsure why a disabled gate was needed as he considered there to be adequate access already. The Town Clerk advised that there was an earmarked reserve for allotments.

RECOMMENDED:

1. that the correspondence be noted;
2. that quotations for a replacement fence and a disabled gate be obtained and brought back to the next meeting.

R334 **LAKE AND COUNTRY PARK – MANAGEMENT OPTIONS PROPOSAL BY CONTINENTAL LANDSCAPES**

The Committee received and considered the management options proposal for the lake and country park by Continental landscapes, which had been deferred to a future meeting by the former Amenities Committee.

The Town Clerk advised that she had not yet shared this with the Lower Windrush Valley Project (LWVP) but thought it would be good to see how it fitted with their aspirations. There was no funding for the management proposals so it would be a long term project.

The Town Clerk suggested that a good first step would be meeting with the LWVP and Cllr Holliday (the Council's appointed representative on LWVP). The Chairman reminded Members that the results of their survey had come up with similar findings.

A member commented that the proposal spoke of re grazing the meadow but there was no mention of clearing the ragwort first. Another member asked who was responsible for the management of the stream. The Operations and Estates Officer advised that the bank was maintained by the Town Council whilst the stream bed was maintained by the Environment Agency.

The Town Clerk added that the Council had employed a Park Ranger who was eventually made redundant c.2004 as the Council decided to leave the area as a natural resource.

However, clearly this was not working. Members wondered if a ranger should be employed again as not having one was clearly costing money.

RECOMMENDED:

1. that the management options proposal be noted;
2. that a meeting is arranged with the Town Clerk, Cllr Holliday and the LWVP to discuss the document;
3. that costings for the management options plan and a park ranger be obtained and brought back to a future meeting.

The meeting closed at 6.45pm.

Chairman