

SPORTS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE MEETING OF THE WITNEY TOWN COUNCIL

Held on Monday 19 March 2018

At 6.00pm in the Council Chamber, Town Hall

Present:

Cllr D Temple (Chairman)

Councillors: B J Churchill J S King
 H B Eaglestone C K Woodward

Officers: Town Clerk Operations & Estates Officer
 Democratic Services Officer
 Asst. Operations & Estates Officer

Also present: 3 members of the public

R133 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for their absence were received from Cllr Dr S E Bartington, Cllr L M Price and Cllr T J Morris.

R134 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr King declared a non-pecuniary and personal interests in Agenda Item 5 – Ralegh Crescent Refurbishment and Bowls Green Irrigation.

R135 MINUTES

- a) **RESOLVED:** that the minutes of the meeting held 22 January 2018 be agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman;
- b) **MATTERS ARISING:** there were no matters arising from the minutes of the meeting held on 22 January 2018.

R136 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

The Committee adjourned in line with Standing Order 42 so Rowena Martin and Geoff Branner could address the Committee on behalf of the Allotment Association, followed by Mr Jeff Hunter on behalf of Premier Tennis.

The Committee reconvened following the address by the members of the public.

R137 OPERATIONAL REPORT – PROGRESS ON IMPROVEMENTS AND REPAIRS SINCE THE LAST MEETING

The Committee received and considered the report of the Operations and Estates Officer as circulated with the agenda.

RECOMMENDED: that the report be noted.

R138 **ALLOTMENTS**

The Committee received and considered the report of the Operations and Estates Officer, and also what had been heard that evening from the representatives of the Allotment Association.

The Chairman thanked the group for their work on fostering a community spirit at the allotments via their compost toilet and community shed. Another member said that he had known Rowena Martin for a long time and the Committee could believe her if she said things were going well. He felt that the Allotment Association should have delegated authority to run sites as they felt fit. He would be happy to see the scheme rolled out across other sites.

Another member asked what the officers thought of the changes. The Operations and Estates Officer was supportive as long as the Association informed the Town Council first before doing anything like this. He had some concerns on health and safety but it had been made clear that it was the Association's responsibility to ensure compliance.

RECOMMENDED:

1. that the report be noted;
2. that retrospective permission is granted to the Allotment Association for the composting toilet, community shed and social area and that responsibility for future maintenance/replacement, health and safety compliance and any insurance is solely the responsibility of the Allotment Association;
3. that if other allotment sites request the same facilities, the Town Council is informed prior to any work taking place.

2 members of the public left at 6.25pm.

R139 **REQUEST FOR A BOULES/PETANQUE COURT**

The Committee received and considered the report of the Operations and Estates Officer, following a request being made by a resident for a boules/petanque court on The Leys.

A member asked if there was any developer money for this and the Operations and Estates Officer replied that there was already a court at French Square on Madley Park – this area had been constructed by the developers for that precise purpose.

Another member asked if the one at French Square was used. The Town Clerk advised that it was not used for boules and she understood that the District Council and Residents Association were considering renovating the area. A member asked if there were seating areas here and officers confirmed that there were benches.

The Town Clerk advised that it may be wise to check what the plans were for the area with WODC.

RECOMMENDED: that the report be noted and subject to checking with WODC, the resident be informed that there was already a boules/petanque court fit for use at Madley Park.

R140. **LEYS RECREATION GROUND**

The Committee received and considered the update report as circulated at the meeting from Jeff Hunter of Parks Tennis.

A member asked if the Operations and Estates Officer and Mr Hunter had come to an agreement about the removal of the hut. The Operations and Estates Officer replied that he had no objection to it being replaced as long as the asset was not broken up (it being solid concrete). The member suggested that the existing hut could be covered in shiplap but the Operations and Estates Officer advised that this had already been discussed but Mr Hunter wanted an entirely new structure which would give him a better all-round view. Members were not adverse to this as long as the concrete hut was retained for the Council.

Parks Tennis also requested permission to install a new entrance sign for the Crazy Golf to add impact which they would fund. Members were agreeable to this.

It was noted that the report referred to the Town Council funding nets, fencing and netball court marking which the Operations and Estates Officer had pointed out had not been agreed by Council. However, the Council had agreed to colour coat the tennis courts and it was agreed that the quotes could be delegated to Councillors to accept so as to not delay the process for the new season.

Parks Tennis had raised the issue of parking at The Leys and the Town Clerk advised that Councillors Bartington and Morris were looking into this.

The report requested a golf course stakeholder sign – in addition to the golf course entrance sign - in keeping with the Splash park sign to be funded by the Town Council. As this was between £200 and £400, members agreed to this. This was to be installed at a later date.

Another request was for a Council funded table tennis table. The Operations and Estates Officer felt that it could be fitted in somewhere, but as there was no budget for it, the Committee could not agree to the purchase, although this could be put forward for next year's budget process.

Parks Tennis had also requested an amendment to the contract with an option to renew before the end of the term. The Town Clerk advised that she would need to speak to the Council's solicitor about the possibility of adding this in. Members requested that a report should come back to the next Sport and Recreation Committee meeting.

The Operations and Estates Officer pointed out that the report had referred to court painting as every 5 years and resurfacing as every 10 year, whilst Council had agreed to court painting every 7 years and resurfacing every 14 years. The Committee were advised that this was the regime at West Witney Sports Ground and felt that things should be the same across the estate and therefore the remedial work would not be done more often than agreed.

RECOMMENDED:

1. that the existing golf booking hut can be dismantled and replaced as long as it is retained for Witney Town Council;
2. that a new sign for the Crazy Golf funded by Parks Tennis could be installed;
3. that quotes for the colour coating of the courts could be delegated to councillors to ensure no delay;
4. that the Town Council would fund a “partnership” sign for the Crazy Golf/tennis area;
5. that funding for a table tennis table be put forward for next year’s budget;
6. that the Town Clerk brings back a report on the contract between Parks Tennis and the Town Council to the next meeting;
7. that the tennis courts will be painted every 7 years and resurfaced every 14 years

The meeting closed at 6.44pm.

Chairman