

**SPORTS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE MEETING OF THE WITNEY TOWN COUNCIL**

**Held on Monday 21 May 2018**

**At 6.00pm in the Council Chamber, Town Hall**

**Present:**

Cllr B J Churchill (Chairman)

Councillors:                      H B Eaglestone                      J S King  
   A D Harvey                              L M Price                      D Temple

Officers:                              Town Clerk                              Operations & Estates Officer  
   Democratic Services Officer

Also present:                      6 members of the public

**R255 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for their absence were received from Cllrs Brown and Chirgwin.

**R256 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Cllr King declared a non-pecuniary interest in agenda item 7 –Operational Report – in respect of the Bowling Green irrigation as his wife was a member of the club.

**R257 ELECTION OF VICE CHAIRMAN**

**RESOLVED:** that Cllr Brown be elected Vice Chairman for the ensuing municipal year.

**R258 MINUTES**

a)        **RESOLVED:**                      that the minutes of the meeting held 19 March 2018 and the Special meeting held on 23 April 2018 be agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman with the following amendment to the minutes of 19 March:

Minute R140 – “adverse” be replaced by “averse”.

b)        **MATTERS ARISING:**                      there were no matters arising from the minutes of the meeting held on 19 March or 23 April 2018.

**R259 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

The Committee adjourned in line with Standing Order 42 so Mr David Bates could address the Committee about the Madley Park Play Area, followed by Punam Owens about a change of route for Park Run, followed by Mr Jeff Hunter on behalf of Premier Tennis.

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

R260 **MADLEY PARK PLAYING FIELD PROJECT – UPDATE**

It was **RESOLVED** that this item be taken next so that Mr Bates could hear the debate.

The Committee had welcomed the verbal update from Mr Bates who was Chairman of the Madley Park Residents Association. Members received and considered further written information about the project. It had been made clear in the presentation that the group was looking for a financial contribution of £10,000 from the Town Council. The Town Clerk advised that a precedent had been set as the Town Council had contributed funding to other play areas such as Oxlease. However, the budget had been set for the year and the group needed all funding to be in by December 2018.

Whilst the Committee understood that the project had been awarded S106 money, it wondered if there was any more available and tasked Officers with investigating this.

The Town Clerk reminded members that there was money set aside for Park Road and Moorland Road play areas, neither of which could move forward at the moment – this money could be moved to Madley Park play area if the Council wished. A member commented that she would not wish to see these play areas lose out, although she did think that the Town Council should show more than verbal support to Madley Park.

Members agreed that they did wish to support the project and would explore all possible funding options, including those available from Witney Town Council.

**RECOMMENDED:** that Witney Town Council supports the Madley Park Play area project and seeks to facilitate it through exploring further funding streams with the help of officers, including funding which may be available from Witney Town Council.

R261 **PARK RUN – REQUEST TO CHANGE ROUTE**

It was **RESOLVED** to take this item next with the agreement of the Committee so that the public present could hear the debate.

The Committee received and considered the report of the Operations and Estates Officer who had been working with Park Run to find a good solution for all. His aim was to give the organisation longevity, without resorting to rubble or bark chippings on site. There were currently 4 variations of route to increase recovery times. He was also proposing that Park Run would do some remedial work twice a year to relieve compaction.

Members felt that the suggestions made by Park Run and the Operations and Estates Officer were sensible.

**RECOMMENDED:**

1. that the report be noted;
2. that a new entrance be opened onto the West Witney Sports and Recreation Ground from the Community Wood owned by WODC, in the area marked on the plan as circulated;

3. that the Council supplies the associated materials to allow Park Run to carry out the bi annual renovation works in high usage areas;
4. that the Town Council carries out renovation works to the existing pedestrian access in the south east corner of the field;
5. that the locked access gate to the north east corner of the field is opened and replaced by a standard Council general area lock, thus allowing Park Run to use this access to vary their route into the sports ground in this area.

R262 **THE LEYS – PARKING**

It was **RESOLVED** to move this item up the agenda so that Mr Hunter could hear the discussion.

In terms of the parking situation, the Town Clerk advised that she was waiting for a meeting with West Oxfordshire District Council about the Traffic Regulation Orders. She understood that Cllr Bartington was dealing with the TRO's in terms of funding in her capacity as a County Councillor. The District Council was applying for a lot of TROs and may consider a service level agreement with the Town Council.

In terms of the other request from Parks Tennis which had been received that evening – mini court nets, sockets, netball lines and posts - the issue was that there was no money budgeted for this, and had not been included as part of the original request. Members debated on how to proceed. There could be the possibility of a loan made to Parks Tennis but this would still need to go through the Committee system and be ratified by Council which was a little long winded for Parks Tennis requirement – they wanted to be up and running in time for Wimbledon at the beginning of July.

The Operations and Estates Officer advised that the courts could not be recoated and relined if they would be dug up afterwards to put in sockets for posts etc.

**RECOMMENDED:** that authority be delegated to the Town Clerk, the Chairman of the Committee and the Leader to obtain three quotes for the required goods and to decide how best to proceed.

R263 **COMMITTEE TERMS OF REFERENCE, OBJECTIVES AND WORK PROGRAMME FOR THE MUNICIPAL YEAR**

The Committee received and considered the Terms of Reference and matrix of work/projects for the municipal year as circulated prior to the meeting.

It was agreed that members needed to look at the matrix in depth and bring it back to the next meeting.

**RECOMMENDED:**

1. that the Committee Terms of Reference be adopted;
2. that the matrix be noted;
3. that the matrix be brought back to the next meeting for further review.

R264 **OPERATIONAL REPORT – PROGRESS ON IMPROVEMENTS AND REPAIRS SINCE THE LAST MEETING**

The Committee received and considered the report of the Operations and Estates Officer, which provided an update on all areas. He added a few verbal updates on the changing rooms redecoration at The Leys, cricket sight screens, and a quote for the bowls irrigation system. The disabled fishing platform required replacement.

He advised that he was still struggling to get the adventure golf contractor to reinstate the grass damaged at The Leys. The alternative was to do the work in house and pass the bill to the contractor or Parks Tennis.

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

R265 **LAKE AND PARK WORKING PARTY**

The Chairman invited nominations for the Lake and Country Park Working Party.

Members discussed the involvement of Lucy Kennery from the Lower Windrush Valley Project would also be invited.

**RECOMMENDED:** that the members of the Lake and Country Park Working Party are Cllrs Brown, Churchill, King, Price and Temple.

R266 **CRICKET – UPDATE 2018**

The Committee received and considered the report of the Operations and Estates Officer. West Witney Cricket Club had amalgamated with Hailey and that club had now folded. This meant there was only one team playing at West Witney on what he considered to be the best pitch in the town. He had asked The Swifts (who played at The Leys) if they would consider moving to West Witney Sports Ground as it would have benefits for them including no parking issues – and also for the Sports and Social Club but they had refused the offer.

A member commented that she did not think they should be asked to consider a move again as it was disrespectful in her opinion. Moreover, there were elderly residents living close to The Leys who liked to walk down and enjoy watching the games. Members decided whilst not formally asking the club to reconsider, the offer should be left open.

**RECOMMENDED:** that the report be noted and the offer of moving to West Witney Sports Ground Cricket Pitch be left open for The Swifts.

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The meeting closed at 7.36pm.

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Chairman

