

SPORTS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE MEETING OF THE WITNEY TOWN COUNCIL

Held on Monday 14 January 2019

At 6.00pm in the Council Chamber, Town Hall

Present:

Cllr H W Chirgwin (Chairman)

Councillors: A K Beames J S King
 B J Churchill L M Price
 H B Eaglestone

Officers: Mrs Nicky Cayley - Democratic Services Officer
 Mr Adam Clapton - Office Manager
 Mr John Hickman - Operations & Estates Officer

Also present: 2 members of the public

R012 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for their absence were received from Cllrs Brown and Harvey and the Town Clerk, Mrs Groth.

R013 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

R014 MINUTES

- a) **RESOLVED:** that the minutes of the meeting held on 12 November 2018 be agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

- b) **MATTERS ARISING:** Minute R554/18 – The Chairman asked if there was an update on the Park Road Play area. The Office Manager replied that unfortunately he had no update as the Town Clerk was dealing with this.

R015 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

The Committee adjourned in line with Standing Order 42 so that Mr Dan Wymer could address the committee on the subject of the renewal of Parkrun’s licence at West Witney Sports Ground.

Following this address, the Council reconvened.

R016 WITNEY PARKRUN LICENCE RENEWAL – DUE 10 MARCH 2019

This item was taken next with the express permission of the Chairman so that the public present could hear the debate. Members received and considered correspondence from Parkrun requesting a renewal and an extension of the current licence, an additional two

annual events on Christmas Day and New Year's Day and for a lock up (10ft x 8ft) to be sited next to the existing one owned by Tower Hill football club.

The Committee agreed to all requests with the exception of the storage container. The Operations and Estates Officer expressed concerns as he was currently receiving complaints about lack of parking and another container may decrease this further. A member suggested that the Operations and Estates Officer make a site visit and discuss where may be a suitable location with Parkrun.

RECOMMENDED:

1. that the correspondence be noted;
2. that the licence be extended for a period of four years;
3. that an additional two events be permitted to be added within licence in addition to the weekly Saturday event, namely Christmas Day and New Year's Day on the respective years of the licence period;
4. that the Operations and Estates Officer makes a site visit to West Witney Sports Ground to investigate potential siting area for a lock up and to discuss this with Parkrun.

R017 OPERATIONAL REPORT – PROGRESS ON IMPROVEMENTS AND REPAIRS SINCE LAST MEETING

The Committee received and considered the report of the Operations and Estates Officer as circulated with the agenda. The report covered the Raleigh Crescent play area refurbishment – the solar light had still not arrived – repairs to the Black Forest Towers at Burwell and The Leys play areas, repairs to the hip hop and zip wire at Burwell ; the Splash Park, Leys Tennis Courts Colour Coating and Cricket. He also provided updates on the Lake and Country Park signage, football pitches, bowls green at The Leys and gates at King George V Field. He also referred to the bollards and height restrictor which were now being installed at West Witney Sports ground.

A member asked if the trampoline at The Leys was now repaired. The Operations and Estates Officer replied that twice the Council had received the incorrect part and were still awaiting the correct part.

Another member commented that he had taken his children to The Leys and had found it very muddy with little equipment for 1 – 8 year olds. The Operations and Estates Officer replied that he was looking into costing for bark covering to prevent the muddy areas and the Chairman replied that any new equipment would need to be looked at in view of the budget.

The Chairman asked what was happening with the signs at the Lake and Country Park relating to fishing. The Operations and Estates Officer replied that the Angling Club was considering this and he was awaiting their reply.

RECOMMENDED: that the report be noted.

R018 **HAILEY ROAD ALLOTMENTS GATES**

The Committee received and considered correspondence and the report of the Operations and Estates Officer.

The Chairman of the Allotment Association had indicated that it may be able to contribute £200 towards the cost of the gates although there had not yet been a meeting to discuss this. The total cost including works time was likely to be £540. Members felt that the Association should be asked to pay half of this cost.

RECOMMENDED:

1. that the report be noted;
2. that the Allotment Association should be asked to contribute half of the total cost i.e. £270 or the equivalent to half the cost.

R019 **OXFORDSHIRE FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION – FOOTBALL STRATEGY**

Members received and considered the report of the Operations and Estates Officer.

He explained that the idea was really to set the ground for the next Council in May and to deliver the project by the end of the 4 year term. The Oxfordshire F.A were involved and would dictate what the needs were. If 3G pitches were secured for West Witney, one of the pitches at The Leys could be taken out of commission which would help ground conditions with all the events that used the space. A member asked if the clubs were going to be consulted and the Operations and Estates Officer explained that this was likely to happen through the mechanism of the F.A.

It would be key to ascertain what costs would be and what funding might be available.

RECOMMENDED: that the report be noted.

R020 **LAKE AND COUNTRY PARK - VISION**

The Town Clerk had added a note to the agenda explaining that whilst she had offered to draft a vision for the Lake and Country Park further to the meeting of the Working Party in November being inquorate, she had been unable to do this due to budget preparation.

The Chairman expressed his disappointment that the meeting had been inquorate.

RECCOMENDED: that the Town Clerk's note be noted.

The meeting closed at 6.35pm.

Chairman