

SPORTS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE MEETING OF THE WITNEY TOWN COUNCIL

Held on Monday 11 March 2019

At 6.00pm in the Council Chamber, Town Hall

Present:

Cllr H W Chirgwin (Chairman)

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

Officers: Mrs Sharon Groth – Town Clerk
 Mrs Nicky Cayley - Democratic Services Officer
 Mr John Hickman - Operations & Estates Officer

R102 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for their absence were received from Cllrs Brown, Harvey and King.

R103 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

R104 MINUTES

- a) **RESOLVED:** that the minutes of the meeting held on 14 January 2019 be agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

- b) **MATTERS ARISING:** Minute R016: The Town Clerk advised that Park Run had sent a letter of thanks following their first birthday at the weekend.

R105 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There were no members of the public present at the meeting.

R106 OPERATIONAL REPORT – PROGRESS ON IMPROVEMENTS AND REPAIRS SINCE LAST MEETING

The Committee received and considered the report of the Operations and Estates Officer. This covered repairs to the play areas, signage at the Lake and Country park, football pitches, the Leys bowls green and a response from the Angling Society further to previous correspondence with the Council.

The Operations and Estates Officer advised that he was in the process of getting quotes to replace the disabled fishing platforms at the Lake and Country park. A member asked if they had to be replaced and the Town Clerk stated that they were installed approximately 10 years ago as part of the Council's DDA compliance. Current indications were that they would be the same price as when they had last been installed (£1,000) and there was money still available in the budget to cover this.

The Chairman had some concerns about the workload if the Works Team carried out the remedial work with bark at The Leys Play area. The Operations and Estates Officer advised that this would be less expensive but moreover it would stop the whole play area from being closed off for a week or more. His staff could fence off one area as it was being worked on as and when rather than closing off the whole play park, and it could be slotted in with other work.

RECOMMENDED:

1. that the report be noted;
2. that the Witney Angling Association be invited to attend the Lake and Country Park Working Party;
3. that the purchase and installation of the disabled fishing platforms be delegated to Officers.

R107 TEQBAL TABLE

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

Members expressed concerns about misuse by bikes and skateboards and discussed the difficult issue of where to site a table. Members also discussed the potential to locate a table in another play area, although one member pointed out that originally the idea had started as a request for a table tennis table at The Leys from Park Tennis.

RECOMMENDED:

1. that the report be noted;
2. that the Operations and Estates Officer be asked to discuss siting of a Teqbal table with Park Tennis and report back to the next Full Council meeting.

R108 OXLEASE PLAY AREA - FENCE

Members received and considered the report of the Operations and Estates Officer. The Chairman commented that he had not had any more complaints about the park or requests for a fence. He agreed to contact the resident who had made the initial request to ascertain her current views. Due to the significant costs, Officers were asked to investigate funding options including the County Council Priority funds.

RECOMENDED:

1. that the report be noted;
2. that the Chairman contacts the resident who had made the initial request to ascertain her current opinion;
3. that Officers investigate funding options including the County Council Priority funds

R109 **THE LEYS PLAY AREA – MUDDY AREAS AND SAFER SURFACING**

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

RECOMMENDED:

1. that the report be noted;
2. that the Works Team carry out the works to the muddy areas within The Leys play area at their earliest opportunity.

R110 **FINANCIAL REPORT**

Members received and considered the report of the Town Clerk as circulated with the agenda.

RECOMMENDED: that the report be noted.

R111 **ALLOTMENTS**

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

There followed a discussion about how to proceed as the Association had failed to maintain the sheds initially provided by the Council as per the terms of the lease. Sheds that had fallen into disrepair had not been replaced and those that were still standing had been given to the plot holders to maintain along with a small rent reduction for this.

RECOMMENDED: that the Town Clerk writes to the Allotment Association asking it to replace the missing sheds and reminding them that under the terms of the lease it was responsible for maintaining the sheds.

R112 **OXFORDSHIRE FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION – FOOTBALL STRATEGY**

There was no current update for this item. Members requested that the Town Council writes to WODC and requests that a new 3G pitch be sited at West Witney Sports Ground.

RECOMMENDED: that the Town Council writes to WODC and requests that a new 3G pitch be sited at West Witney Sports Ground.

The meeting closed at 6.40pm.

Chairman