

Abingdon Town Council

The minutes of a meeting of the Amenities and Recreation Committee held on Wednesday 2nd December 2009.

Present: Councillor Peter Fulk - Chair
Councillor Sam Bowring
Councillor Margaret Crick
Councillor Alastair Fear
Councillor Jeanette Halliday
Councillor Lesley Legge - Ex Officio
Councillor Jan Morter
Councillor Tim Oates
Councillor Audrey Tamplin

In Attendance: Mr Stephen Rich - Project & Technical Manager
Mr Tim Badcock - Cemetery and Works Supervisor

57. **Apologies**

Apologies for absence were received from the Mayor of Abingdon Councillor Patricia Hobby and Councillor Lorraine Oates.

58. **Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest declared at this point in the meeting's agenda.

59. **Minutes**

Resolved: *that the minutes of the meeting held on 28th October 2009 be signed as a correct record.*

60. **Matters arising not covered elsewhere on the agenda**

There were no matters arising from the previous minutes that were not covered elsewhere on the agenda.

61. **Britain in Bloom Sub Committee**

Members received a report from the Project and Technical Manager updating the Committee regarding the Abingdon In Bloom presentation evening.

Members were informed that there was to be a seminar in the New Year organised by the regional Britain In Bloom Committee to inform councils of new categories for the national competition.

The Chair thanked the Chairman of the Britain in Bloom Sub Committee and the Works Team for their hard work in organising and maintaining this year's blooms and competitions.

62. **Finance and Best Value Monitoring Report**

Members received the report of the Town Clerk in relation to Income and Expenditure for the period from April 2008 to date as circulated with the agenda.

Resolved: *that the report be noted.*

The Committee also received the Town Clerks report on Budget estimates for 2010 / 2011. The committee considered the situation regarding the weeding of roads and pavements around the Town. Although this was a County Council function members agreed to carry out this task, as far as manpower would allow, for the coming financial year.

Resolved: *that the report on Budget Estimates for 2010 / 2011 be accepted and referred to the Finance and General Purposes Committee for consideration in the budget making process.*

63. **Cemetery and Works Supervisor's Report**

The Committee received and considered the report from the Cemetery and Works Supervisor which was circulated to members with the agenda.

Resolved: *that the report be noted.*

The Committee thanked the Works Team for their efforts over the past month with Remembrance Day and Homecoming parades which helped make the occasions a success.

64. **Abingdon Cemeteries**

Waste Bins – The Cemetery and Works Supervisor reported that the new bins had been installed in the cemetery,

Notice Board – A new notice board for the cemetery would be ordered shortly and the current notice board relocated to the Garden of Remembrance. This work was ongoing.

- Pathways – Quotations for the resurfacing of the new cemetery path / roadway had been received. However this work would not be undertaken until the new depot facilities had been installed and would be considered at a later date.
- Garden of Remembrance – This work was ongoing.
- Cleaning of Cemetery Wall – This work was being undertaken shortly.

65. **St Helen's Closed Churchyard**

Members were informed that it was anticipated the painting of the churchyard railings would be completed by the end of the year subject to weather conditions.

An order had been placed for the treatment of the grassed areas of St Helen's churchyard.

66. **Allotment Working Party**

Arrangements had still to be made for an Allotment Working Party visit to the Drayton Road and West End allotment sites. It was anticipated that these will take place in the spring of 2010.

The Project and Technical Manager informed the meeting that the allotment leases were progressing slowly and meetings had taken place with the land valuers and further meetings were to be arranged. The District and Town Council solicitors were preparing draft leases.

The Project and Technical Manager informed the meeting that the flooding problem that existed on the Drayton Road allotment site would be addressed by him after the 3rd December 2009.

67. **Play Area Working Party**

It was agreed that the drawing up of a portfolio for play areas would not be undertaken until the new equipment had been installed this financial year.

68. **Trees**

It was resolved that the Atlantic Cedars in the Old cemetery would not be replaced until the autumn 2010.

The meeting was informed that the Works team would be progressing with work to the Council's stock of trees during the winter months in accord with the Tree Survey undertaken by the Town Council.

69. **Digital Mapping**

Members were informed that the Town Council had agreed for a computer station to be purchased for Members use in the Old Abbey House along with Digital Mapping software. Members were also informed that training would be given to those Members interested in using the Digital Mapping software.

70. **Waste Audit Report**

Members were informed that the "wheelie bin" solution as stated in the Waste Audit Report would not be viable for the Town Council as the bins were not suitable for the kind of waste produced by the Council. Therefore the costing of the six yard skips was the best value the Town Council could obtain and the authors of the report were to be informed.

71. **Corporate Identity**

The work to replace the clothing of the Works Team with corporate identity clothing was ongoing.

72. **Publicity**

The committee considered that the following items would benefit from publicity:

- New recycling bins in the cemetery
- Homecoming and Freedom Parades (being of National Significance).

Councillor Jan Morter left the meeting at this point, it being 8.53pm

73. **Date of Next Meeting**

The date of the next Amenities and Recreation Committee was confirmed as Wednesday 3rd March 2010 at 7.00pm in the Old Abbey House.

74. **Exclusion of the public including the press**

Resolved: *that in accordance with section 1 (2) of the Public Bodies (Admissions to Meetings) Act 1960 (as extended by Section 100 of the Local Government Act 1972), the public (including the press) be excluded from the meeting because of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted, as summarised below:*

Items for discussion:

1. Minutes of Previous Meeting.
2. Matters Arising.
3. Works Depot Facilities.
4. Revaluation of Grave Costs.
5. Cemetery Pathway / Road
6. Play Area Equipment

The meeting rose at 9.10pm

Signed Date

Chair